

3.4 WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

3.4.1 Existing Conditions

The section describes the existing conditions of the surface water and groundwater resources of the study area and the Lower and Upper Sites.

3.4.1.1 Surface Water

REGIONAL SURFACE WATER

Drainage Basins

The Lower and Upper Sites lie within the drainage basins of the Middle and South Forks of the Snoqualmie River. The Lower Site is entirely within the drainage basin of the South Fork. The Upper Site is on the drainage divide between the two basins, with drainages on the north side flowing into the Middle Fork, and drainages on the south side flowing into the South Fork. The confluence of the two forks approximately 5 miles northwest of the Lower Site forms the Snoqualmie River. The Snoqualmie River is tributary to the Snohomish River, which drains into Puget Sound.

Precipitation

The closest regularly monitored National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) precipitation data station to the site is at Cedar Lake approximately 4 miles south/southwest of the Lower Site. The period of record for this measurement station is 1931 to present. Annual precipitation from 1995 to 1999 ranged from approximately 103 inches in 1995 to 114 inches in 1997 (Table 3.4-1). The average annual precipitation at this location is approximately 101 inches over the period of record, which is slightly less than the average annual precipitation over the last 5 years. Based on measurements on Grouse Ridge in 1995 (Golder, 1996), precipitation at the Lower and Upper Sites is estimated to be approximately 80% of that at Cedar Lake or about 81 inches per year.

TABLE 3.4-1
MONTHLY PRECIPITATION DATA (INCHES) FOR CEDAR LAKE AND GROUSE RIDGE
1995-2000

Month	1995		1996		1997		1998		1999		2000		Average ¹	
	Cedar Lake ²	Grouse Ridge ³	Cedar Lake	Grouse Ridge	Cedar Lake	Grouse Ridge	Cedar Lake	Grouse Ridge	Cedar Lake	Grouse Ridge	Cedar Lake	Grouse Ridge	Cedar Lake	Grouse Ridge
January	8.97	7.2	12.32	9.9	13.36	10.7	16.02	12.8	14.54	11.6	6.71	5.4	13.42	10.7
February	11.56	9.2	16.02	12.8	9.66	7.7	7.32	5.9	13.41	10.7	8.85	7.1	10.39	8.3
March	9.3	7.4	4.74	3.8	17.4	13.9	10.07	8.1	6.93	5.5	NA	NA	10.38	8.3
April	6.26	5.0	14.3	11.4	11.36	9.1	3.84	3.1	3.0	2.4	NA	NA	8.12	6.5
May	4.12	3.3	9.38	7.5	6.71	5.4	6.35	5.1	8.27	6.6	NA	NA	6.07	4.9
June	6.21	5.0	1.49	1.2	7.99	6.4	3.94	3.2	6.56	5.2	NA	NA	5.35	4.3
July	2.68	2.1	2.28	1.8	5.26	4.2	0.8	0.6	4.62	3.7	NA	NA	2.52	2.0
August	4.24	3.4	2.67	2.1	2.48	2.0	1.09	0.9	2.91	2.3	NA	NA	2.69	2.2
September	3.03	2.4	6.76	5.4	6.59	5.3	1.43	1.1	1.55	1.2	NA	NA	5.27	4.2
October	13.04	10.4	13.78	11.0	14.12	11.3	8.81	7.0	8.82	7.1	NA	NA	9.37	7.5
November	21.4	17.1	15.01	12.0	9.0	7.2	22.63	18.1	22.65	18.1	NA	NA	13.94	11.2
December	12.04	9.6	14.89	11.9	10.13	8.1	22.49	18.0	11.88	9.5	NA	NA	14.24	11.4
Total	102.85	82.3	113.64	90.9	114.06	91.2	104.79	83.8	105.14	84.1	NA	NA	101.49	81.2

¹ Based on period of record (1/1931 to 8/1999)

² Precipitation data from NOAA station #451233, Cedar Lake, Washington

³ Grouse Ridge precipitation calculated as 80% of Cedar Lake precipitation (Golder, 1996)

NA - Not Available

Surface Water Flow

Surface water flow in the Middle and South Forks of the Snoqualmie Rivers results from direct runoff of precipitation, groundwater discharge into rivers, and runoff from snow melt. Over the last 5 years, monthly average flow rates in the South Fork near the site have ranged from 26 cubic feet per second (cfs) in September 1998 to 1,160 cfs in November 1995. Over the last 5 years, monthly average flow rates in the Middle Fork near the site have ranged from 135 cfs in September 1998 to 4,534 cfs in November 1995. Generally, periods of high flow correlate to periods of high runoff due to precipitation in late fall and winter and snowmelt in late spring. The period of low flow that occurs in summer and early fall is considered baseflow, which is sustained by late season snowmelt and groundwater discharge.

Surface Water Quality and Use

The Snoqualmie River is classified as a Class A water source by the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) (Chapter 173-210A WAC). Class A water quality meets or exceeds the requirements for all or substantially all uses, including water supply; stock watering; fish and shellfish rearing, spawning, and harvesting; wildlife habitat; recreation; and commerce and navigation. Water class is determined by chemical and biological limits such as fecal coliform, pH, turbidity, dissolved oxygen, temperature, and aesthetic qualities.

The Middle and South Forks of the Snoqualmie River are classified as Class AA water sources by Ecology (Chapter 173-210A WAC). Class AA water quality “markedly and uniformly” exceeds the requirements for all or substantially all uses, including water supply; stock watering; fish and shellfish rearing, spawning, and harvesting; wildlife habitat; recreation; and commerce and navigation.

Usage per Water Rights

Within a 1-mile radius of the Lower and Upper Sites, there are approximately 37 surface water rights. These rights include 24 certificated rights and 13 water rights claims. Groundwater rights records in the site vicinity include 6 certificated rights, 29 water rights claims, plus 3 water rights applications or permits, which are not certificated rights.

SITE SURFACE WATER

Lower Site

The Lower Site is in an outwash plain between the Middle and South Forks of the Snoqualmie River, on the west side of Grouse Ridge. A tributary drainage basin on the west slope of Grouse Ridge (Figure 3.4-1) contributes stormwater runoff to the site. The porous nature of the ground surface and reconnaissance observations suggest that most stormwater received by the site infiltrates through underlying sands and gravels, rather than leaving the site as surface water runoff. In addition, with construction of I-90, the natural drainage to the south was blocked by the large embankment upon which the highway was constructed. Therefore, there is no significant runoff from the site onto adjacent property.

No other significant surface drainage features were observed during the reconnaissance. However, minor ponding of stormwater was observed in low spots, where fine-grained sediments have accumulated. These low spots were observed in the area of the previous gravel-mining operation in the central portion of the site and in the south-central portion of the site adjacent to I-90.

Upper Site

The Upper Site is relatively flat. Much of the northern slope of the ridge has been cleared of timber in recent years and has a light grass vegetative cover. As with the Lower Site, most of the precipitation falling on the Upper Site infiltrates through permeable sands and gravels. No significant surface drainage features, such as streams or wetlands, were observed during the reconnaissance on the upper and relatively flat portion of the ridge. However, minor ponding of stormwater was observed in low spots, where fine-grained sediments have accumulated. There are no offsite drainage basins that contribute runoff to the Upper Site.

On the northern and southern flanks of the ridge, small streams originate as springs at elevations of between approximately 1,500 and 1,390 feet above mean sea level (msl). Fourteen springs (Springs S-1 through S-14) were identified during reconnaissances conducted by Hart Crowser (1999a) and Dames & Moore between September 1998 and February 2000 (Figure 3.4-2 and Table 3.4-2). Springs S-1 through S-7 are believed to be perennial based on the presence of water in September 1998. Seasonal flow in the remaining springs is uncertain. Water from the springs feed streams that discharge into either the South or Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River.

To view this figure, click on the link below.

[Figure 3.4-1 Study Area](#)

To view this figure, click on the link below.

[Figure 3.4-2 Upper Site Spring Location Map](#)

**TABLE 3.4-2
SPRING LOCATIONS AND ELEVATIONS**

Spring Identification	Northing (feet)	Easting (feet)	Spring Elevation (feet above MSL) ¹	Snoqualmie River Drainage Basin	Weir I.D.	Weir Elevation (feet above MSL)
S-1	12528	7895	1446.1	Middle Fork	W-1/2/3	1421.5
S-2	12542	7917	1445.0	Middle Fork		
S-3	12550	7828	1447.6	Middle Fork		
S-4	12600	8064	1443.3	Middle Fork	W-4	1348.5
S-5	10025	10127	1388.0	South Fork	NA	NA
S-6	-	-	~1470	Middle Fork	W-6	1464.1
S-7	-	-	~1460	Middle Fork	W-7	1437.7
S-8	-	-	~1500	South Fork	NA	NA
S-9	-	-	~1460	South Fork	NA	NA
S-10	-	-	~ 1450	Middle Fork	W-10	1445.5
S-11	-	-	~ 1460	South Fork	W-11	1430.6
S-12	-	-	~ 1470	South Fork	W-12	1467.7
S-13	-	-	~ 1480	South Fork	W-13	1452.7
S-14	-	-	~ 1480	South Fork	W-14	1448.7

¹ Elevations for Springs S-1 through S-5 were surveyed relative to mean sea level.

Elevations for S-6 through S-14 were approximated in the field using altimeter or topographic map data.

NA - No weir established at this spring

Dames & Moore established nine surface water gauging points (weirs) below selected springs or groups of springs in March 2000 (Figure 3.4-2). The weirs were generally installed at elevations between 1,430 and 1,470 feet above msl where the streambeds below the springs were accessible and where a single stream channel was present. Streams were not gauged in drainages where all waters appeared to infiltrate (S-5 and S-8) or in areas that were inaccessible (i.e., private property outside the lease area boundary) at the time of this study (S-9). The majority of the ungaged surface water appears to be on the south side of the Upper Site. Based on Dames & Moore's field observations during the spring reconnaissance and weir installation, it is estimated that the gauging locations account for over 50% of the spring discharge from the upper portion of Grouse Ridge.

Surface water discharge measurements collected during March 2000 totaled between 0.27 and 0.32 cfs flowing from the north side of the Upper Site, and between 0.21 and 0.29 cfs flowing from the south side of the Upper Site (Table 3.4-3). These flow rates are likely to be close to peak annual flow, based on historic groundwater level and seasonal climate information.

**TABLE 3.4-3
SPRING DISCHARGE MEASUREMENTS**

	Spring/Drainage Discharge (cfs)									North Side Total (cfs)	South Side Total (cfs)
	Middle Fork Snoqualmie (north side)					South Fork Snoqualmie (south side)					
Spring	S-1/S-2/S-3	S-4	S-6	S-7	S-10	S-11	S-12	S-13	S-14		
Weir	W-1/2/3	W-4	W-6	W-7	W-10	W-11	W-12	W-13	W-14		
Date											
03/02-03/2000	0.06	0.15	0.03	0.04	NA	0.09	0.06	0.05	0.09	NA	0.29
3/6/00	0.05	0.14	0.02	0.03	0.07	0.07	0.05	0.04	0.07	0.32	0.24
3/13/00	0.04	0.12	0.02	0.02	0.07	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.07	0.27	0.21
3/21/00	0.06	0.13	0.02	0.03	0.07	0.06	0.05	0.04	0.08	0.32	0.22

cfs = cubic feet per second (1 cfs = approximately 449 gallons per minute)

3.4.1.2 Groundwater

REGIONAL GROUNDWATER

Groundwater Occurrence

The hydrogeologic setting of the Upper Snoqualmie Basin is complex because of the glacial, lacustrine, fluvial, and mass wasting origins of the materials deposited in the area. A majority of the glacial materials were deposited in response to continental glaciers originating from Canada that moved south into Puget Sound, and alpine glaciers originating in the Cascade Mountains (Golder, 1998). Glacial materials are underlain by bedrock, and along the existing streams, recent alluvium has cut into and filled the glacial materials. Mass wasting between and after glacial episodes has left areas of complex mixtures of soils and other materials. The alluvium and glacial sediments consist primarily of unconsolidated gravel, sand, silt, and clay. The occurrence of groundwater in materials that can supply wells is predominately in the glacial and fluvial deposits.

The USGS (1995) identified 10 geohydrologic units in the area. These units are listed below from youngest to oldest:

1. Alluvium (Qal)
2. Vashon recessional outwash (Qvr)
3. Vashon till (Qvt)
4. Vashon advance outwash (Qva)
5. Upper fine-grained unit (Q(A)f)
6. Upper coarse-grained unit (Q(A)c)
7. Lower fine-grained unit (Q(B)f)
8. Lower coarse-grained unit (Q(B)c)
9. Deepest unconsolidated and undifferentiated deposits (Q(C))
10. Bedrock (Br)

A summary of “typical” thickness, and lithologic and hydrologic characteristics for each of these units is presented in Figure 4 of Appendix D. Based on the number of wells completed within each unit and the lithologic characteristics, the USGS identified the Qal, Qvr, Qva, and Q(A)c as the principal aquifers in the

area. Qvt, Q(A)f, and Q(B)f generally act as confining beds, although usable quantities of water may be obtained from the more permeable facies of these units.

The estimated thickness of these materials ranged from less than 30 feet along the western edge of Grouse Ridge to more than 1,000 feet along the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River. Accumulations of glacial fluvial deposits more than 800 feet thick are also present in the Middle Fork and South Fork (Grouse Ridge) embankments, which rise approximately 1,000 feet above the surrounding valleys.

A series of interconnected aquifers is present in the glacial fluvial materials and bedrock in the study area. Aquifers in the vicinity are shown in cross-sections on Figures 6 and 7 in Appendix D. Golder (1998) has divided these aquifers into shallow unconfined aquifers and deep confined to semi-confined aquifers described below.

Shallow Unconfined Aquifers

- Shallow Valley Aquifer – An unconfined aquifer that is located throughout the main portion of the Snoqualmie River Valley from Snoqualmie Falls to the Middle and South Forks of the Snoqualmie River. The aquifer in the site vicinity is up to approximately 100 feet thick and occurs in the Qal near the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River and in the Qvr beneath the Sallal Prairie. The aquifer is used primarily for local potable supply (Golder, 1998).
- Upland Aquifers – These limited groundwater occurrences are situated on uplands that commonly flank the valley floor and, in the site vicinity, include the Middle and South Fork Embankments. The aquifers occur in recessional outwash sand and gravels (Qvr) that were deposited in deltas and also have been referred to as deltaic deposits (Qvd) by Hart Crowser (1999a) and Associated Earth Sciences, Inc. (AESI) (1983). The embankments are hydraulically linked to the valley aquifer (Golder, 1998).

Deep Confined to Semi-confined Aquifers

- Deep Valley Aquifer – A confined to semi-confined aquifer (an aquifer that is completely filled with water and is overlain by [capped] a low permeability confining bed) that is located throughout the main portion of the Snoqualmie River Valley from Snoqualmie Falls to the Middle and South Forks of the Snoqualmie River. The aquifer is tapped by City of Snoqualmie wells and may also be tapped by several wells in the Tanner area. In the study area, the aquifer occurs in the upper coarse-grained unit (Q(A)c), below glacial till (Qvt). The aquifer is considered highly productive and has been the focus of the investigations conducted by East King County Regional Water Association (EKCRWA). According to Golder (1998), the aquifer is not well defined near North Bend, and there is some uncertainty regarding the continuity of deep aquifer throughout the valley.
- Bedrock Aquifer – Wells in the upper basin obtain groundwater from bedrock reported as sandstone, shale, and basalt (Golder, 1988).

Groundwater Flow

Pursuant to standard practices in hydrogeologic review, groundwater within the Shallow and Deep Valley Aquifers is inferred to follow topography and flow from the margins of the valley toward the Middle and

South Forks of the Snoqualmie Rivers, and then northwest toward Snoqualmie Falls. Figure 3.4-3 presents groundwater elevations for wells screened in the shallow and deep valley aquifers. Groundwater elevations are based on measured elevations in selected wells and estimated elevations based on well logs for other wells (Hart Crowser, 1999a). The available groundwater level data support the inferred groundwater-flow pattern. In addition, this interpretation of regional groundwater movement is consistent with the interpretation presented by the USGS (1995).

Recharge

Groundwater recharge in the Upper Snoqualmie Basin is relatively great because of high annual precipitation and coarse-grained surficial materials. Because of the coarse-grained nature of the soils, large areas have little or no surface runoff even after periods of extended precipitation. In these types of areas, the USGS (1995) estimates 69% of the precipitation recharges the underlying aquifers. Based on an estimated annual average precipitation of 81.2 inches per year, in the site vicinity (Table 3.4-1), this corresponds to approximately 56 inches of recharge per year. In addition to recharge from precipitation, streams may recharge the Shallow Valley Aquifer during periods of high flow.

Discharge

Groundwater in the study area discharges as seepage to springs and streams, transpiration by plants, groundwater outflow down valley, and withdrawals from wells. In the study area, groundwater discharges from aquifers into the Middle and South Forks of the Snoqualmie River.

In a stream-flow survey conducted on the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River in 1995 during low flow conditions by the USGS (Golder, 1996), stream flow was measured at five stations between Tanner (approximately 1.5 miles west of the Lower Site) and Granite Creek (approximately 4 miles west-northwest of the Lower Site). The results were variable with certain reaches losing water and others gaining depending on the date of the measurements. In general, changes in flow rate between stations were small relative to the total flow of the river and were within the range of uncertainty associated with these types of measurements.

Groundwater Quality and Use

Wells identified within a 1-mile radius of the Lower and Upper Sites are shown on Figure 3.4-1. Thirty-nine wells were identified, including 29 domestic wells, 6 municipal water supply wells, 2 industrial wells, 1 irrigation well, and 1 test well (Table 3.4-4). Most of the wells appear to be screened in Shallow Valley Aquifer. The closest well to the Lower Site is the Sallal Water District Well No. 3, which is near the northwest corner of the site (Figure 3.4-4). This well pumps periodically on a daily basis at approximately 75 gallons per minute, with an annual production of approximately 15 million gallons. Recent water quality data for the Sallal Well No. 3 indicate that groundwater quality is very good (Pancoast, 1999). The wellhead protection area for this well extends onto the Lower Site as shown on Figure 3.4-4 (Compass Geographics, Inc. 1998).

To view this figure, click on the link below.

[Figure 3.4-3 Groundwater Elevation Contour Map – January 1998](#)

To view this figure, click on the link below.

[Figure 3.4-4 Sallal Well No. 3 Wellhead Protection Area](#)

TABLE 3.4-4
WATER SUPPLY WELLS WITHIN A 1-MILE RADIUS OF THE SITE
NORTH BEND GRAVEL OPERATION

Well Location ¹	Owner ²	Use	Approximate Surface Elevation ³ feet above msl	Well Depth feet bgs	Water Level ⁴ feet bgs	Screened Interval feet bgs	Aquifer Screened ⁵	Information Source ⁶
T23N/R08E								
12R	Hamilton, M.	domestic	570	99	57	no screen	S	a
13Q	Everson, T.	domestic	650	300	124	no screen	B	a
13N	Highline School Dist. #401	test well	580	199	77	179-194	D	a
13R1	Anderson, G.	domestic	700	63	660	no screen	-	b
13R2	Forrester, S.	domestic	710	237	520	no screen	-	b
14G	Alvea, M.	domestic	528	96	30	no screen	S	a
23A	Riverbend Assoc.	municipal	520	60	22	35-60	S	a
23B	Riverbend Assoc.	municipal	500	62	4	52-62	S	a
24A	Rogers, K.	Industrial	650	207	143	197-207	D	a
24B	Schoenbaum, F.	domestic	630	97	25	no screen	S	a
24H	Wonsley, D.	domestic	610	119	74	no screen	S	a
24K	Douglass, D.	irrigation	600	25	4	no screen	S	a
24R	Shea, D.	domestic	610	60	34	no screen	S	a
25A1	Anderson, B.	domestic	590	26	6	no screen	S	a
25A2	Bogden, M.	domestic	590	45	20	no screen	S	a
25K	Wallsh, S.	domestic	670	109	44.8	no screen	B	a
25R	Meyers, E.	domestic	800	315	199	no screen	S	a
T23N/R09E								
Kasperski	Kasperski	domestic	810	-	-	-	-	b
Middle Fork Well Assoc.	Middle Fork Well Association	domestic	780	-	-	-	-	b
Community	Community Well	domestic	800	-	-	-	-	b
Vallley Camp	Vallley Camp	domestic	800	35	814	-	S	b
17F	Peck, J.	municipal	730	48	0	no screen	S	a
18A	Anger, R.	domestic	920	180	158	no screen	S	a
18F	Strode, J.	domestic	800	88	57	81-88	S	a
18P	Sallal Water District	municipal	785	255	200	238-248	D	a,c
19D	Sallal Water District	domestic	700	273	183	258-273	D	a,c
19N	Cloud, D.	domestic	580	54	4	49-54	S	a
20B1	Ferris, B.	municipal	790	272	70	no screen	D	a
20B2	Roloson, J.	domestic	820	400	48	no screen	B	a
20D	Olson, B.	domestic	800	48	32	no screen	S	a,c
28C	Dept. of Corrections	Industrial	1600	738	596	697-712	U	a
29A	Saemmer, J.	domestic	1100	40	26.5	no screen	S	a
29J1	Saemmer, J.	domestic	1090	29	9	no screen	S	a
29J2	Barkdale, E.	domestic	1120	31	15	no screen	S	a
29N	Castagno, K.	domestic	1100	45	8	no screen	S	a
29Q	Brandalise, J.	domestic	1300	100	28	no screen	B	a
29R	Bianchi, L.	domestic	1250	40	9.5	no screen	S	a
30C1	South Fork Water Supply	municipal	600	52	21	no screen	S	a
30C2	Oberlander, J.	domestic	620	33	14	no screen	S	a

(-) indicates no data available or unknown

¹ Letters designate ¼ Section based on USGS nomenclature system. Individual locations are based on well log or field inventory information. Locations for well not field verified were estimated based on available information including ¼ Section, address, and owner.

² Owner identified on water well report. Current owners may be different than those indicated in table.

³ Elevations are relative to mean sea level (MSL) and were estimated from topographic maps.

⁴ Water level is based on water levels reported on the original well log.

⁵ Aquifer screened:

S = Shallow Valley Aquifer

D = Deep Valley Aquifer

U = Upland Aquifer

B = Bedrock

⁶ Information sources

a = Washington State Water Well Reports

b = Department of Ecology Water Rights Database

c = Dames & Moore, Hart Crowser, or Golder field verified

The nearest wells considered to be downgradient of the Upper Site are south of the ridge in the Homestead Valley area (wells 29J to 29R on Figure 3.4-1). Several wells are also located north of the ridge near the

Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River. These wells are typically shallow and are used for domestic purposes.

In addition to the existing groundwater use, Ecology is currently considering a joint water right application filed by EKRWA and the Seattle Water Department (now Seattle Public Utilities) on January 19, 1994, to withdraw 60 million gallons per day (mgd) from the Upper Snoqualmie Basin. If the water right were granted, the water would be used to meet the projected water needs for eastern King County.

SITE GROUNDWATER

The presence of groundwater beneath the Lower and Upper Sites was evaluated primarily based on data for 22 borings and wells installed by Cadman, Inc. in 1995 and 1998, and 10 wells installed under the supervision of Dames & Moore in 1999 and 2000. Boring and well locations are shown on Figure 3.4-5, and boring data are summarized in Tables 3.4-5 and 3.4-6.

**TABLE 3.4-5
LOWER SITE MONITORING WELL AND BORING DATA**

Boring/Well Identification	Drilling Date	Boring Depth (feet)	Ground Surface Elevation (feet above MSL)	Boring Base Elevation (feet above MSL)	Depth to Screened Interval (feet bgs)	Elevation of Screened Interval (feet above MSL)
Inside Proposed Excavation Footprint						
GR95-12	Sep-95	100	678	578	65-90	613-588
GR98-1	Jan-98	89	697	608	78-88	619-629
GR98-7	Jan-98	80	677	597	NA	NA
GR99-1	May-99	130	722	592	110-130	612-591
Outside Proposed Excavation Footprint						
GR98-3	Jan-98	100	680	580	NA	NA
GR98-4	Jan-98	125	835	710	99-109	736-746
GR98-6	Jan-98	130	693	563	NA	NA

MSL = Mean Sea Level

bgs = below ground surface

NA = not applicable (boring not completed as a well)

To view this figure, click on the link below.

[Figure 3.4-5 Site Boring and Well Location Map and Proposed Final Elevation of Gravel Operation](#)

**TABLE 3.4-6
UPPER SITE MONITORING WELL AND BORING DATA**

Boring/Well Identification	Drilling Date	Boring Depth (feet)	Ground Surface Elevation (feet above MSL)	Boring Base Elevation (feet above MSL)	Depth to Screened Interval (feet bgs)	Elevation of Screened Interval (feet above MSL)	Screened Perching Zone
Inside Proposed Excavation Footprint							
GR1 ¹	Aug-83	220	1640	1420	NA	NA	NA
GR95-1	Sep-95	90	1607	1517	NA	NA	NA
GR95-2	Sep-95	200	1641	1441	120-140	1521-1501	Shallow
GR95-3	Sep-95	180	1654	1474	143-153	1511-1501	Shallow
GR95-4	Sep-95	125	1636	1511	NA	NA	NA
GR95-5	Sep-95	100	1635	1535	NA	NA	NA
GR95-6	Sep-95	116	1655	1539	NA	NA	NA
GR95-7	Sep-95	170	1635	1465	NA	NA	NA
GR95-8	Sep-95	140	1628	1488	NA	NA	NA
GR95-9	Sep-95	130	1607	1477	NA	NA	NA
GR95-10	Sep-95	270	1646	1376	NA	NA	NA
GR95-11	Sep-95	220	1633	1413	NA	NA	NA
GR00-1	Feb-00	240	1631	1391	150-160	1481-1471	Deep
GR00-2	Jan-00	240	1640	1400	144-154	1496-1486	Deep
GR00-4	Jan-00	220	1636	1416	150-160	1486-1476	Deep
GR00-5	Jan-00	220	1630	1410	115-125	1515-1505	Shallow
GR00-6	Jan-00	230	1635	1405	121-131	1514-1504	Shallow
GR00-7	Feb-00	210	1645	1435	120-135	1524-1509	Shallow
GR00-8	Feb-00	230	1613	1383	96-106	1517-1507	Shallow
GR00-9	Jan-00	210	1614	1404	145-155	1469-1459	Deep
GR00-10	Jan-00	210	1600	1390	125-135	1475-1465	Deep
Outside Proposed Excavation Footprint							
GR98-2	Jan-98	70	937	867	NA	NA	NA
GR98-5	Jan-98	70	1061	991	NA	NA	NA
GR98-8	Jan-98	50	1078	1028	NA	NA	NA
GR98-9	Jan-98	50	1331	1281	NA	NA	NA
GR98-10	Jan-98	70	1214	1144	NA	NA	NA

¹ Boring completed for Weyerhaeuser by AGS (1983)

MSL = Mean Sea Level

bgs = below ground surface

NA = not applicable (boring not completed as well)

The boring designated GR00-3 was not drilled.

Lower Site

Groundwater Occurrence

Four of the regional geohydrologic units described by the USGS (1995) have been identified in the Lower Site borings and monitoring wells (Figure 3.4-6) and through geophysical methods. The four units are recessional outwash (Qvr), till (Qvt), the upper coarse-grained unit (Q(A)c), and bedrock (Qbr).

To view this figure, click on the link below.

[Figure 3.4-6 Generalized Geologic Cross Section A-A' - Lower Site](#)

The shallow recessional material (coarse gravels and sands) in the central portion of the Lower Site does not appear to contain quantities of water indicative of an aquifer and, therefore, the shallow valley aquifer does not appear to be present at this location. The recessional material at the Lower Site is underlain by a layer of silty material, which may be glacial till or a transitional zone.

Wells GR98-1 and GR99-1 appear to penetrate the silty material and are interpreted to be completed in the top of the upper coarse-grained unit, referred to as the deep valley aquifer (Figure 3.4-6). However, in this area, the deep valley aquifer does not appear to be confined. Based on the available water-level measurements, water-level elevations in wells GR98-1 and GR99-1 appear to respond in a similar manner and fluctuate up to 20 feet (between approximately 612 and 632 feet above msl) in response to seasonal precipitation patterns (Figure 3.4-7). Greater water level fluctuations than measured in the period of record may occur seasonally or during long-term climatic variations.

Water levels in Well GR98-4 (Figure 3.4-7) are approximately 60 to 75 feet above water levels in wells completed within the lower portion of the Lower Site and appear to be controlled by the slope and elevation of the bedrock surface, which is assumed to slope steeply to the west (Figure 3.4-6).

Water levels in well GR95-12 do not fluctuate significantly on a seasonal basis (Figure 3.4-7) and do not appear to be representative of the local water table.

Conceptual Model for Groundwater Flow

Groundwater beneath the Lower Site originates as precipitation that falls on areas upgradient of the site, infiltrates and flows beneath the site, and as precipitation that infiltrates on site (Figure 3.4-8). It is estimated that up to 56 inches of precipitation may recharge groundwater beneath the Lower Site annually. The recharge occurs primarily between the late fall and early spring when average monthly precipitation is highest. When considered on an annualized basis, this corresponds to an estimated continuous average recharge rate of approximately 0.28 cfs for the 43.8-acre portion of the Lower Site that would be disturbed by the Proposal. This quantity of recharge is consistent with the significant water-level fluctuations (up to 19 feet) that have been measured in wells GR98-1, GR98-4 and GR99-1 (Figure 3.4-7).

Groundwater at the Lower Site generally flows in a westerly direction, according to analysis of water-level elevations (Figure 3.4-4). The water table is steeply sloped (approximately 15%) between well GR98-4, on the ridge east of the site, and wells GR98-1 and GR99-1. This gradient decreases to the west across the valley aquifer, and away from the bedrock influence where highly permeable sands and gravels drain the groundwater.

To view this figure, click on the link below.

[Figure 3.4-7 Groundwater Elevations - Lower Site](#)

To view this figure, click on the link below.

[Figure 3.4-8 Conceptual Hydrogeologic Model – Lower Site](#)

The Sallal Well No. 3 appears to be screened in the upper portion of the Deep Valley Aquifer and is located approximately 100 feet northwest of the Lower Site. In the vicinity of this well, the aquifer appears to be confined; however, beneath the eastern portion of the Lower Site, the aquifer is unconfined. The nature of this transition zone and the continuity of the aquifer(s) in the area is uncertain. However, for the purpose of this assessment, it can be assumed that the aquifer beneath the Lower Site is in direct hydraulic connection with the aquifer screened by Sallal Well No. 3. In addition, although the groundwater flow direction beneath the Lower Site appears to be westerly, the operation of the Sallal Well No. 3 well locally affects the direction of groundwater movement and can be expected to capture water from beneath the Lower Site (Figure 3.4-4). Although there is some limited uncertainty regarding the relationship of the aquifers and the groundwater flow direction beneath the western portion of the Lower Site, the monitoring well Cadman, Inc. has proposed to install on the Lower Site would provide additional data in support of a more definitive interpretation of site conditions.

Groundwater Quality and Use

No groundwater production wells have been completed at the Lower Site. However, the northern portion of the Lower Site is within the wellhead protection area for Sallal Well No. 3 (Compass Geographics, 1998). The location of the wellhead protection area is presented in the Sallal Water Association's Wellhead Protection Plan (Compass Geographics, Inc., 1998) and is shown on Figure 3.4-4. According to representative for the Sallal Water District (Pancoast, 1999), the Wellhead Protection Plan is considered final. The wellhead protection area assumes that groundwater flows west from Grouse Ridge toward Sallal Well No. 3. The southern boundary of the wellhead protection area closely corresponds with the northern limits of the proposed gravel operation on the Lower Site. Estimated travel times for groundwater from beneath the Lower Site to reach Sallal Well No. 3 range from less than 6 months near the northwest corner of the site up to about 3 years for groundwater beneath the eastern site boundary. The level of analysis completed to develop the wellhead protection plan was appropriate for its intended purpose; however, due to the uncertainty of the assumptions, it should be considered an approximation of the actual capture zone for the well.

Groundwater samples from onsite monitoring wells have not been collected and analyzed to assess groundwater quality beneath the Lower Site. Based on results of water sample testing for Sallal Well No. 3, groundwater quality beneath the site is expected to be very good.

Upper Site

Groundwater Occurrence

The potential presence of groundwater beneath the Upper Site was evaluated by reviewing boring logs and water-level data for the existing monitoring wells (GR95-2 and GR95-3) and borings advanced on the ridge by Cadman, Inc. and nine additional monitoring wells installed under the supervision of Dames & Moore during January and February 2000. The discussion below is based primarily on the observations and measurements collected from the recent drilling program, and water level measurements collected in the Upper Site monitoring wells.

The presence of silty material and groundwater is limited in the upper 100 feet of the sand and gravel beneath the Upper Site (Figures 3.4-9 and 3.4-10). At a depth of approximately 100 to 120 feet (1,500 to 1,550 feet above msl), silty materials were encountered beneath the ridge. These silt layers (shallow perching layer) were approximately 5 to 40 feet in thickness, and in some areas appeared to be interbedded with up to 10 feet of sandy materials. This layer was not encountered in borings and wells completed on the west end of the ridge (GR95-11, GR00-1) or locally along the south side of the ridge (GR95-9). The shallow perching layer supports the first laterally extensive occurrence of perched groundwater (such as a groundwater occurrence with unsaturated conditions existing both above and below) beneath the Upper Site. However, groundwater was not observed within or above the shallow perching layer in borings GR00-2 and GR00-4. Where present, the shallow perching layer was underlain by generally sandy material.

A second, laterally extensive silty perching layer was encountered at approximately 130 to 160 feet bgs (1,450 to 1,475 above feet msl). Groundwater was discontinuously perched on this layer. This silty zone (deeper perching layer) was approximately 3 to 25 feet in thickness, and was underlain by silty sand to gravelly material. This layer appeared to be more laterally continuous throughout the ridge than the shallow perching layer, although it was not encountered locally along the north edge of the ridge (GR00-8). Groundwater was not observed within or above the deep perching layer in borings GR00-5 and GR95-3.

Groundwater in these upland aquifers is considered perched. The perched nature of the groundwater is exhibited by the general absence of wet or saturated conditions in sandy material encountered below the saturated zones. Water level data for two monitoring wells (GR95-2, GR95-3) indicated that groundwater occurs beneath the central portion of the ridge on the shallow perching layer throughout the year at elevations ranging from about 1,510 to 1,540 feet above msl (Figure 3.4-11). Water in four wells installed in January and February 2000 (GR00-5 through GR00-8) also appears to be perched on this shallow perching layer. Wells GR00-1, GR00-2, GR00-4, GR00-9, and GR00-10 are screened in water-bearing materials above the deeper perching layer. Water levels in these perched zones fluctuate in response to seasonal precipitation patterns (Figures 3.4-11 and 3.4-12).

A test well drilled at the Washington State Patrol Fire Training Academy (28C on Figure 3.4-1), to a depth of 757 feet bgs encountered groundwater at approximately 60, 164, 391, and 650 feet bgs (Hart Crowser, 2000). Bedrock was encountered at 734 feet bgs or an elevation of approximately 866 feet above msl. The deepest water-bearing zone, between 650 and 734 feet bgs (approximately 782 to 866 feet above msl), was encountered directly above the bedrock surface.

Conceptual Model for Groundwater Flow

Groundwater beneath the Upper Site originates as precipitation that falls on the ridge and infiltrates through the permeable surficial deposits (Figure 3.4-13). Based on the relationship between precipitation and recharge developed by the USGS (1995) and the annual precipitation near the ridge (81.2 inches), it is estimated that up to 56 inches of precipitation may recharge groundwater beneath the Upper Site annually. This quantity of recharge is consistent with the significant changes in water levels that have been measured in well GR95-2. The water level in this well has fluctuated up to approximately 20 feet annually in response to infiltration of precipitation (Figure 3.4-11). Assuming 30% effective porosity for the formation, a 20-foot fluctuation could correspond to up to 72 inches of recharge. These recharge estimates (56 to 72 inches per

year) are within a reasonable range given annual climatic variability and uncertainties in estimating factors that control recharge.

As the water percolates downward through the sand and gravel in response to gravity, it would accumulate (perch) on the lower permeability layers of silt and silty sand. Low permeability layers are limited in extent in the upper 100 feet of the deposits beneath the ridge (Figures 3.4-9 and 3.4-10). The water that encounters these discontinuous silty layers would perch on these layers either seasonally or throughout the year depending on the recharge rate, and the permeability and extent of the silty layer. Water perched on these silt layers migrates laterally through the sand and gravel overlying the silt, flows to the edge of the layers, and then continues a downward infiltration through the surrounding sand and gravel. A limited amount of water also may infiltrate directly through these relatively low permeability silty layers.

The shallow perching layer is present at an elevation between 1,500 to 1,540 feet above msl and groundwater perched on this layer appears to be continuous through the central portion of the site (Figure 3.4-14). Some of the water accumulating at this depth flows laterally to the south side of the ridge and discharges into Spring S-8, which was observed at an elevation of approximately 1,500 feet above msl. The absence of additional springs at this elevation suggests that the remainder of the water infiltrates vertically down around or through the shallow perching layer.

The deep perching layer is present between approximately 1,460 to 1,475 feet above msl. Groundwater perched on this layer appears to be continuous throughout the site, except at the west end of the ridge (Figure 3.4-15). The deep perching layer appears to correspond to the elevation of Springs S-1, S-2, S-3, S-4, S-6, S-7, and S-10 on the north side of the ridge and Springs S-9 and S-11 through S-14 on the south side of the ridge. Water perched on this zone appears to flow to the north and southeast, intercept the face of the ridge, and discharge at these spring locations.

Below the deep perching layer, evidence of groundwater was observed in borings GR00-5, GR00-7 and GR95-10. However, the occurrence of water appears to be discontinuous and no laterally extensive aquifers were encountered between elevations of 1,460 to 1,426 feet above msl. Other evidence of groundwater at greater depth beneath the ridge includes the presence of Spring S-5 at an elevation of 1,388 feet above msl on the south side of the ridge (Figure 3.4-2). Groundwater that does not discharge into springs or streams along the flanks of the ridge would continue to infiltrate downward and may recharge deeper aquifers beneath the ridge, such as the deep aquifer encountered in the Washington State Patrol Fire Training Academy test well. This aquifer would most likely be underlain by either low permeability deposits such as silt and clay of pre-Vashon deposits or by the bedrock that underlies the ridge and is evident around the western, southern, and eastern margins of Grouse Ridge. Given the apparent bedrock high located along the western edge of Grouse Ridge and the absence of springs on the western portion of the ridge, water from this aquifer would be expected to flow north toward the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River and/or south toward the South Fork of the Snoqualmie River. Water that infiltrates to this depth also could recharge the bedrock aquifer.

To view this figure, click on the link below.

[Figure 3.4-9 Generalized Geologic Cross Section B-B' - Upper Site](#)

To view this figure, click on the link below.

[Figure 3.4-10 Generalized Geologic Cross Section C-C' - Upper Site](#)

To view this figure, click on the link below.

[Figure 3.4-11 Groundwater Elevations - Upper Site](#)

To view this figure, click on the link below.

[Figure 3.4-12 Recent Groundwater Elevations - Upper Site](#)

To view this figure, click on the link below.

[Figure 3.4-13 Conceptual Hydrogeologic Model - Upper Site](#)

To view this figure, click on the link below.

[Figure 3.4-14 Shallow Perching Zone, Water Level Contour Map - Upper Site](#)

To view this figure, click on the link below.

[Figure 3.4-15 Deep Perching Zone, Water Level Contour Map - Upper Site](#)

Groundwater Quality and Use

Groundwater beneath Grouse Ridge is not currently developed. The quality of the groundwater has not been tested; however, given the nature of the geologic deposit, the high rate of recharge, and the limited land use development of the Upper Site, excellent water quality is expected.

3.4.1.3 Water Budget

This section describes a generalized water budget for the Lower and Upper Sites, based on the conceptual models described above and the available data regarding groundwater recharge and discharge. The purpose of the water budget is to identify and quantify primary components of the water budget for each site, such as precipitation, evapotranspiration and recharge. Recharge is considered important because it is the component of the water budget that is most likely to be affected by the gravel operation. The water budgets for the Lower and Upper Sites focus only on areas that would be disturbed as part of the gravel operation. Components of the water budgets are summarized in Table 3.4-7.

**TABLE 3.4-7
ANNUAL WATER BUDGET - LOWER AND UPPER SITES**

Lower Site (43.8 Acre Disturbed Area)			Upper Site (260 Acre Disturbed Area)		
Water Sources	Quantity (acre-feet/year)	Percent	Water Sources	Quantity (acre-feet/year)	Percent
Precipitation ¹	296	88%	Precipitation ¹	1,760	88%
Run-on ²	42	12%	Run-on ²	0	12%
Subtotal	338	100%	Subtotal	1,760	100%
Water Losses			Water Losses		
Run-off ³	0	0%	Run-off ³	0	0%
Evapotranspiration ⁴	92	27%	Evapotranspiration ⁴	550	27%
Infiltration/Recharge ⁵	246	73%	Infiltration/Recharge ⁵	1,210	73%
Subtotal	338	100%	Subtotal	1,760	100%

¹ Precipitation estimated as 80% of Cedar Lake precipitation (Golder, 1996)

² Run-on calculated using KCRTS (King County, 1999)

³ Based on field observations

⁴ Assumed to be 31% of precipitation (USGS, 1995)

⁵ Assumed to be 69% of precipitation (USGS, 1995)

LOWER SITE

The proposed area of disturbance for the Lower Site covers 43.8 acres or approximately 1,900,000 ft². Site reconnaissance has identified one small drainage that enters the Lower Site near the northwest corner of the site. There is no significant runoff from the site because the soil is very permeable and the water can infiltrate readily. In addition, all drainage and runoff from the site generally flows to low points within the

former area of gravel mining or to a low point adjacent to the north side of I-90. Therefore, the water budget for the Lower Site can be simply summarized with the following equation:

$$P + RO - ET = R$$

Where:

P = annual precipitation

RO = annual surface water run-on

ET = annual evapotranspiration

R = annual groundwater recharge

Groundwater inflow and outflow are not considered in the water budget because there are no onsite groundwater discharge points or withdrawals, and thus the only change in quantity of groundwater beneath the Lower Site (excluding changes in storage) is due to recharge.

The quantity of precipitation over the Lower Site can be estimated using the relationship developed by Golder (1996) for precipitation at Grouse Ridge and Cedar Lake. Mean annual precipitation at Cedar Lake since 1931 is approximately 101.5 inches (Table 3.4-1). Based on 1 year of monitoring at Grouse Ridge, it is estimated that precipitation at Grouse Ridge is about 80% of the precipitation at Cedar Lake. Based on this relationship, the annual precipitation at Grouse Ridge would be 81.2 inches. Although the ridge would be expected to receive more rainfall than the Lower Site based on elevation alone, this estimate is consistent with the estimated precipitation presented in East King County annual precipitation maps (USGS, 1995). Over the 43.8-acre disturbed area, this corresponds to approximately 296 acre-feet or 12,900,000 cubic feet (ft³) of water annually.

Run-on has been observed near the northeast corner of the Lower Site and is associated with a small creek that drains approximately 32 acres of the northwestern portion of Grouse Ridge. This run-on appears to infiltrate in the area where the fresh water pond would be constructed. The quantity of runoff into this stream was estimated using the King County Runoff Time Series (KCRTS) Model (Appendix D). Based on this analysis, the average annual volume of run-on is estimated to be about 42 acre-feet or 1,800,000 ft³.

Using the USGS (1995) estimate that 69% of the precipitation recharges groundwater when annual precipitation exceeds 60 inches and surficial deposits are permeable, approximately 56 inches per year would infiltrate and recharge groundwater. On an annual basis, this corresponds to approximately 204 acre-feet or 8,900,000 ft³. This estimate is considered conservative, and actual recharge would likely be higher because the disturbed nature of the central portion of the site probably enhances recharge when compared to a forested area, as interception by vegetation is negligible. This water infiltrates downward through the permeable deposits and recharges the upper and/or lower valley aquifers.

Over the 43.8-acre disturbed area, the total quantity of aquifer recharge is estimated to be approximately 246 acre-feet per year or 10,700,000 ft³. This includes recharge due to run-on and infiltration of precipitation. On a continuous flow rate basis, the annual rate of recharge to the aquifer beneath the disturbed portion of the Lower Site is estimated to be a minimum of 0.34 cfs.

Due to the absence of significant runoff at the Lower Site, the balance of precipitation, 31% or 25.2 inches, would be considered evapotranspiration. Over the 43.8-acre disturbed area, this corresponds to approximately 92 acre-feet or 4,000,000 ft³ of water annually. This evapotranspiration estimate is slightly higher than the estimate of 23 inches for the Upper Snoqualmie Valley reported by Golder (1996).

Studies by the USGS (1997) in the Puget Sound Lowland have shown that evapotranspiration in a pasture is about 20 inches per year. Portions of the Lower Site that have been previously mined and are lightly vegetated may be considered similar to pasture. In the same study, the USGS estimated evapotranspiration for a mixed forest, similar to the forest on portions of the Lower Site, to range from about 26 to 28 inches per year. This study was conducted in areas that receive about 50% of the rainfall estimated at the Lower Site. These estimates are not considered directly applicable to the site because, evapotranspiration decreases proportionately with increasing cloud cover (USGS, 1995) and the cloud cover is assumed to be greater in areas with significantly greater annual precipitation. However, given the exposed gravel surface and pasture-like nature of portions of the Lower Site, actual evapotranspiration may be less than estimated. If this is the case, then actual aquifer recharge would be higher than estimated.

UPPER SITE

The proposed area of disturbance for the Upper Site covers 260 acres or approximately 11,300,000 ft². No evidence indicates that there is any significant surface water runoff from the area of the proposed gravel operation, and because the site is on a ridge, there is no potential for run-on. Therefore, the water budget for the disturbed portion of the Upper Site can be simply summarized with the following equation:

$$P - ET = R$$

Where:

P = annual precipitation

ET = annual evapotranspiration

R = annual groundwater recharge

There are no groundwater discharge points or withdrawals within the disturbed area, and thus the only change in quantity of groundwater beneath the Upper Site (excluding changes in storage) is due to recharge. However, spring discharge, which occurs outside of the disturbed area, is discussed below relative to the estimate of aquifer recharge. For the Upper Site, the quantity of recharge is also considered to be equal to the amount of groundwater that leaves the Upper Site. This is a reasonable assumption for the upper 200 feet of deposits beneath the ridge because the only opportunity for offsite groundwater inflow to occur onto the site is in the vicinity of the Washington State Patrol Fire Training Academy. The existing water well in this area is not currently operated (see Section 2.2.1). Groundwater in this area would be expected to migrate laterally out toward the edges of the ridge rather than along the axis of the ridge. Thus, the contribution of groundwater from this area to the upper deposits of the ridge are expected to be negligible.

The quantity of precipitation over the Upper Site was estimated using the same relationship described above for the Lower Site. Over the 260-acre proposed area of disturbance, the estimated annual precipitation of 81.2 inches corresponds to approximately 1,760 acre-feet or 77,000,000 ft³ of water.

Using the USGS (1995) estimate that 69% of the precipitation recharges groundwater when annual precipitation exceeds 60 inches and surficial deposits are permeable, approximately 56 inches per year would infiltrate and recharge groundwater. Over the 260-acre disturbed area, this corresponds to approximately 1,210 acre-feet or 53,000,000 ft³ of water annually. This estimate is considered conservative and actual recharge would probably be higher given that most of the Upper Site has been recently clear-cut and is more similar to a pasture than a forested area. This estimate is also slightly less than Golder's (1996) estimate of up to 58 inches of recharge per year for the Upper Snoqualmie Embankments. On a continuous basis, the estimated average rate of recharge to the perched aquifers beneath the disturbed portion of the Upper Site is approximately 1.7 cfs.

Due to the absence of significant runoff at the Upper Site, the balance of precipitation, 31% or 25.2 inches, would be considered evapotranspiration. Over the 260-acre disturbed area, this corresponds to approximately 550 acre-feet or 24,000,000 ft³ of water annually. This evapotranspiration estimate is slightly higher than the estimate of 23 inches for the Upper Snoqualmie Valley reported by Golder (1996). As described for the Lower Site, actual evapotranspiration may be lower than estimated given that much of the Upper Site is similar to a pasture where the USGS (1997) estimates evapotranspiration to be about 20 inches per year.

Some of the groundwater that infiltrates downward through the permeable deposits, discharges as springs along the north and south flanks of the ridge between elevations of about 1,500 and 1,390 feet above msl. In March 2000, the average total discharge rate of the measured springs was approximately 0.5 cfs (Table 3.4-3). Not all springs were measured and the average annual spring discharge rate is expected to be lower than the rate measured in March. However, based on field observations it is estimated that over 50% of the spring discharge related to the shallow and deep perching layers was measured. Therefore, since the estimated average rate of recharge (1.7 cfs) is significantly greater than the measured rate of spring discharge (0.5 cfs), a significant quantity of water appears to infiltrate through and/or around the deep perching layer. Water that infiltrates deeper into the ridge may recharge other perched aquifers and/or deeper aquifers beneath the ridge. Water from these aquifers may discharge into streams along the flanks of the ridge or into the South and/or Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River.

3.4.2 Environmental Impacts

3.4.2.1 Construction Impacts

Construction-related impacts associated with groundwater, water supply, and environmental health were not identified. Construction activities are considered to be too short in duration to affect groundwater resources. A biosolids compost product would not be used during construction and therefore there would be no impacts. Construction-related impacts for surface water are described below for each alternative.

ALTERNATIVE 1 – NO ACTION

No construction-related impacts are associated with this alternative.

ALTERNATIVE 2 – PROPOSAL

Runoff Volume

As the Lower and Upper Sites are developed during construction and the natural ground cover is removed, stormwater falling on the site would run off at a higher rate. In addition, the exposed ground surface would be more susceptible to erosion and sedimentation. During ground preparation, mitigation measures such as hay bales, silt fences, and interceptor ditches would be installed to control sedimentation and erosion related to construction activities.

Construction of site access roads also would increase runoff from the road surface, as well as erosion and sedimentation. These impacts would be mitigated by incorporating stormwater controls such as roadside drainage ditches and bioswales into the road design and construction.

The impacts of construction activities on runoff volume are considered minimal.

Surface Water Quality

The greatest potential impact on surface water quality during construction is from sedimentation and erosion, which cause soil particles to become suspended in stormwater that flows over the exposed soil surfaces. During construction this could occur as a result of excavation and grading activities and vehicular traffic entering and leaving the site.

During construction, hay bales, silt fences, and hydroseeding of erosion-prone slopes would be used to minimize potential sediment loading of surface water. Stormwater runoff from access roads would be managed similarly.

Vehicular traffic, including construction equipment, leaving the site could contribute sediment and debris to roadside drainage courses. Measures to address this impact include stabilized construction entrances and washing of vehicles in a wash down area prior to leaving the site.

With proper stormwater management controls and procedures, the impacts of construction activities are considered minimal.

Floodplain

Construction activity is not proposed within or near to the floodplain. No impacts on the 100-year flood elevation are expected.

Alternative 2 – Lower Site Option

Construction impacts for this option would be similar to Alternative 2.

ALTERNATIVE 3 – LOWER AND UPPER SITES (EXIT 34 AND EXIT 38)

Impacts on surface water drainage would be similar to Alternative 2, with site processing located on the Upper Site.

Alternative 3 – Lower Site Option

Construction impacts for this option would be similar to Alternative 3.

ALTERNATIVE 4 – UPPER SITE ONLY (EXIT 38)

Impacts on surface water drainage would be similar to Alternative 2, with site processing located on the Upper Site.

3.4.2.2 Operation Impacts

The impacts evaluated in this section include surface water, groundwater, the water supply for the project, and environmental health. Specific issues related to surface water and groundwater quality are described along with other surface water and groundwater issues. The environmental health impacts focus on the use of biosolids to reclaim the excavations.

ALTERNATIVE 1 – NO ACTION

No operation impacts are associated with this alternative.

ALTERNATIVE 2 – PROPOSAL

Surface Water

The Proposal outlines a conceptual drainage plan for the Lower Site. At the Lower Site, stormwater runoff would be conveyed to an infiltration pond via drainage ditches and temporary piping. Water would then infiltrate into the underlying soil. The conceptual layout for the Lower Site shows the infiltration pond located at the west end of the processing facility. Offsite drainage would be controlled through perimeter ditches, which would route stormwater to existing drainage pathways. A 3.8-acre passive freshwater storage pond would be constructed at the Lower Site. Water would be drawn from this pond to replace process water lost during aggregate processing, concrete and asphalt production, and evaporation from process water recycling (settling ponds) storage in the Upper Site. A groundwater well and surface water runoff would provide water to the passive freshwater pond to maintain its water storage capacity.

At the Upper Site, process water from the Lower Site would be collected and stored in a settling pond, where it would be available for reuse in facility operations. Process water would be routed through settling ponds, where fines would settle out. Flocculents may be used, if necessary, to remove sediments from the process water. The conceptual layout shows the settling ponds located at the west end of the mining area. There are no other details for drainage-control facilities at the Upper Site.

Runoff Volume

As the gravel operation is developed and the natural ground cover is removed, stormwater falling on the site may run off at a higher rate in some locations. These locations include roadways or parking areas around the processing facility and other new impervious surfaces around the facility. Based on the proposed layout, the new impervious areas constitute a small percentage of the total site area and, therefore, the increase in

stormwater runoff is expected to be minimal. Most precipitation falling on the site would infiltrate through the porous ground surface and would not become runoff.

At the Lower Site, all stormwater drainage would be contained on site. Approximately 40 acres would be excavated and the operations center would be built on the excavated floor, approximately 50 feet below the existing grade. Drainage from the proposed access roads would be collected in roadside ditches, which would flow to the infiltration pond. The proposed plan does not contribute surface water runoff to downstream watercourses. Drainage from the Lower Site access road would be collected and routed to the Lower Site stormwater facilities. Drainage measures for the access roads would generally consist of roadside ditches and culverts, as required. These facilities must be designed in accordance with the current King County Surface Water Design Manual, and shall be adequately sized to pass the 25-year storm, with the capacity to convey the 100-year event without overtopping.

A passive freshwater pond located in the northeast corner of the Lower Site would occupy 3.8 acres of surface area. The pond would capture rainfall within its surface area, as well as surface runoff from an upgradient drainage area of 32 acres. Water elevations within the pond will be regulated by water draws for process uses, controlled addition of groundwater from a new well, and diversion of excess water to an infiltration pond located west of the processing plants. An emergency overflow structure and drainage path would be addressed during the design stage to handle excess stormwater accumulations in the pond during unusually wet years.

All excavations on the Upper Site would be contained within a closed depression. Stormwater collected in active mining areas would be contained within the active segment and allowed to infiltrate to groundwater. The storm runoff would be managed by direct infiltration to surface soil and diversion of excess runoff to infiltration ponds. Once constructed, these facilities would be maintained for the life of the mine and reclaimed as permanent synthetic riparian zones when mining is complete. Drainage at the slope faces would be controlled through the use of interceptor dikes or swales as necessary. Drainage from the Upper Site access road adjacent to the conveyor alignment would drain back to the Lower Site. Drainage from SE Grouse Ridge Road flows through natural drainage features to streams and eventually to the South Fork of the Snoqualmie River.

Throughout the site, constructed drainage courses would be protected from excessive water velocities by the use of check dams. All disturbed areas would be drained to settling ponds where suspended solids would settle out.

Based on information provided, the Proposal would not effectively increase stormwater runoff contributed to the downstream system. The use of engineered stormwater control structures and implementation of procedures for erosion and sedimentation control are expected to result in minimal impacts during site operations.

Surface Water Quality

There are no existing permanent surface water bodies on the Lower and Upper Sites and there would be no significant offsite stormwater runoff from the disturbed areas during site operations. A passive freshwater storage pond would be constructed at the Lower Site as part of the project's planned development. Potential impacts to surface water are limited to onsite stormwater runoff. The greatest potential impact is from

sedimentation and erosion, which causes soil particles to become suspended in stormwater that flows over exposed soil surfaces. Other potential impacts include contamination of stormwater runoff by accidental chemical or petroleum product spills.

The Proposal would control sedimentation and erosion problems in several different ways. The onsite stormwater runoff that does not infiltrate directly into the soil would be collected and conveyed to infiltration ponds. Rock or vegetation-lined ditches and swales would be constructed to reduce sediment loading to the onsite infiltration ponds. Hay bales, silt fences, and hydroseeding of erosion-prone slopes would further minimize potential sediment loading of surface water. Stormwater runoff from the access roads would be managed in the same way.

A detailed stormwater drainage plan would be required for this project, to be prepared in accordance with the King County Surface Water Design Manual (SWDM). This plan must be submitted to King County for approval prior to the start of any construction activity on site. Because the project site would be developed in several phases, a phased drainage plan would be required, which must be approved by the County through the grading permit process.

In addition to the requirements of the drainage plan, the site must also comply with the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit issued by Ecology. The NPDES permit was recently revised, with the new requirements taking effect in August 1999. The NPDES permit as well as the SWDM mandates that stormwater control facilities be provided to manage the volume of water resulting from the 10-year, 24-hour storm event. Maintenance of all onsite stormwater facilities must comply with the SWDM, Section IV-4.10 Best Management Practice (BMP) S2.00.

The NPDES permit requires compliance with the Federal Clean Water Act of 1972 and the Water Quality Act of 1987. These regulations stipulate that a Spill Prevention and Emergency Response Plan and a Surface Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) are to be prepared for the site. The Spill Control Plan provides procedures for the prevention, containment, control, and cleanup of spills or unplanned discharges of oil and petroleum products and other materials that may pollute waters of the state. The SWPPP provides documentation of the BMPs, location of structures and drainages, personnel training, and inspection procedures for the control of stormwater. An assessment of the SWPPP BMPs is required biannually, with one inspection occurring during the wet season and one during the dry season.

In addition to the measures listed above, surface water discharging to groundwater would be monitored for pH levels in accordance with the NPDES permit, and no visible oil sheen on any of the infiltration ponds would be allowed.

Another potential contaminant source is from flocculents, which would be used on site to promote settling of particles from the process water, collected in the settling ponds. The proposed product to be used (Nalco 7888) has a measurable toxicity to aquatic animals in its undiluted form. The active ingredients of the flocculent product is aluminum hydroxychloride. Based on other sites, Nalco 7888 is typically diluted into a wash-water stream to a working concentration of 15 parts per million (ppm). Nalco 7888 has a reported 96-hour no observable effect level (NOEL) of 37 mg/liter for rainbow trout, 119 mg/liter for fathead minnow, and 15 mg/liter for *Ceriodaphnia dubia* (7-day survival test). Once the treated water is discharged into the

pond, the flocculent becomes bound to the sediment particles. In the settling ponds, the settled solids are biologically inert and would not infiltrate or impact groundwater.

Truck traffic leaving the site with aggregate products could also affect surface water quality. Sediment and debris could end up in roadside drainage courses. Measures to lessen this impact include paving the access roads and washing the vehicles in a contained truck wash facility prior to leaving the site. Wash water would be treated and recycled at the truck wash facility.

The proper implementation of surface water controls, policies, and procedures would result in minimal impacts during site operations.

Floodplain

The Proposal does not include mining within or near the floodplain. No impacts on the 100-year flood elevation are expected from implementation of the Proposal or final reclamation.

Springs and Streams on Grouse Ridge

The potential water quality impacts and changes in flow rates for the springs and streams that originate on Grouse Ridge are described below.

Water Quality:

There would be no direct runoff from the Upper Site into the springs and streams on Grouse Ridge because of the bowl-like excavation operation; therefore, impacts on water quality would be related to the transport of potential contaminants from groundwater to surface water.

The most likely contaminants are considered to be turbidity as well as fuel and lubricants used in the equipment on the Upper Site. Interception and filtration of turbid water by the sandy and silty zones occurring within the ridge materials are expected to be sufficient to remove turbidity before groundwater is discharged to the springs provided that the excavation does not extend into perched zones that are in direct hydraulic connection with the springs.

Impacts on water quality due to accidental spills of petroleum products such as diesel fuel could occur at the Upper Site. These spills would be handled using procedures outlined in the Spill Prevention and Emergency Response Plan to minimize potential impacts on soil, surface water, and groundwater. Given the limited amount of equipment used on the Upper Site, releases are expected to be small and infrequent. In the unlikely event of a significant groundwater impact, the potential exists that the springs and streams also could be affected; however, this potential is considered low.

Spring and Stream Flow:

Aquifer recharge is expected to increase slightly as a result of the proposed mining operation. The changes would occur gradually across the ridge over an estimated 25-year period. Springs that receive water from areas where mining is occurring or has recently occurred are expected to receive greater quantities of water due to the increased recharge. The travel time for infiltrating water to reach the springs would decrease because of the removal of about 100 feet of sand and gravel from the ridge (Figure 3.4-13). The net result

of this is expected to be more rapid response in the spring flow rates to precipitation and wider fluctuations in the average daily or monthly flow rates in the springs and streams. Some portion of the annual spring discharge is derived from the downslope movement of water throughout the subsurface (i.e., capillary diversion) and subsurface stormflow in the forested ridge side drainages. This component of annual discharge would not be affected by the proposed operations.

As the mining and reclamation progresses and changes to the landform increase, the potential exists that the areal distribution of recharge could change significantly. Fine-grained soils are proposed to be placed in areas that are reclaimed, and slopes would be introduced into areas that were previously flat. This combination would tend to increase runoff and could focus recharge in new or different areas. Runoff would be routed to stormwater infiltration ponds. Ponding may seasonally develop in response to the use of fine-grained soil or in areas where the cut depth encounters the perched water table. These changes could affect the flow of water to springs and streams by reallocating the water between these features. Spring discharge also would be affected by the locations of infiltration ponds on the Upper Site. Following reclamation, the quantity of water recharging the perched aquifers could decrease to below pre-mining levels if the use of fine-grained material to reclaim the Upper Site or the excavation depth contributes to significant ponding that would increase evaporation.

Overall the impacts to the spring flow rates are expected to be low provided that: (1) the infiltration ponds and other drainage features constructed as part of reclamation are designed to minimize the ponding of water over large areas at the base of the excavation; and (2) the ponds are located with the intent of distributing recharge across the base of the excavation, in a manner similar to existing conditions, rather than focusing it in a few locations.

South and Middle Forks of the Snoqualmie River

Groundwater from beneath the Lower Site may discharge into the rivers. Groundwater beneath the Upper Site discharges into small streams that drain into the rivers, and groundwater beneath the Upper Site may discharge directly into the rivers. If the quantity or quality of groundwater beneath the site changes, this could affect the rivers.

Lower Site:

Groundwater quality is susceptible to impacts at the Lower Site. Given the activities in this area, the most likely contaminant would be petroleum hydrocarbons (such as diesel fuel and lubricants), and the quantity of the contaminants released is not expected to exceed 55 gallons. These types of releases would locally contaminate soils and could degrade groundwater quality locally beneath the site. Implementation of the Spill Prevention and Emergency Response Plan should eliminate or minimize impacts on water quality from such spills. If impacts on groundwater occur, they should be detected through groundwater monitoring proposed for the project before the contaminants have had the opportunity to migrate off site. However, even without monitoring or corrective actions, natural attenuation is expected to reduce petroleum concentrations in groundwater to below applicable standards before it could migrate the one-half mile to the South or Middle Forks of the Snoqualmie River. Therefore, the potential for water quality impacts to the rivers is considered to be low.

The use of groundwater as the source of water for the Proposal is expected to decrease the quantity of water in the aquifer beneath the Lower Site. On average, the quantity of groundwater moving beneath the site, is not expected to decrease by more than the average rate of water usage for the Proposal (0.16 cfs). Depending on the hydraulic connection between the aquifer that the water is pumped from and the Middle and South Forks of the Snoqualmie River, there could be a slight decrease over time in the groundwater contribution to the river. In the South Fork and Middle Fork, the average daily stream flows upstream of the site were 300 and 1,230 cfs, respectively. The potential decreased contribution of water from the aquifer is considered relatively insignificant with respect to the average flow in the rivers.

Upper Site:

The use of chemical and petroleum hydrocarbons at the Upper Site would be significantly less than the Lower Site and therefore, the potential for water quality impacts would be decreased. However, if contaminants reach the perched groundwater, the potential for natural attenuation is somewhat less before the groundwater discharges into the springs and streams above the rivers because of the relatively short distance between the edge of the mining activity and the springs. If contaminants are discharged from the springs into the streams, the streams could quickly transport the contaminants to the rivers.

The enhanced recharge at the Upper Site would likely increase the quantity of water contributing to the rivers. The increase in contribution could result from increases in spring discharge which increases the flow in tributary streams or increased groundwater contribution to the rivers. The increases would be very small compared to ranges of flows in the river. These slight increases would however, on an annualized basis, tend to offset the potential small decrease in stream flow that could result from groundwater pumping at the Lower Site.

Groundwater

Buffer Zone

The buffer zone is a term used to describe the vertical distance between the base of the proposed excavations at the Lower and Upper Sites and the seasonal high groundwater level in the underlying regional aquifer(s). The Proponent incorporated a buffer zone into their mining plan to provide protection of groundwater. The purpose of the buffer zone is to provide an adequate vertical separation so if there is a spill of chemicals, lubricants, or fuels on site, the operator can respond to the spill in accordance with the Spill Prevention and Emergency Response Plan before the underlying groundwater becomes impacted. In addition, during reclamation, the buffer zone provides separation from the water table needed for the development of roots for trees that would be planted at the site. The Proposal includes a 20-foot buffer zone.

Assessment of Buffer Zone Thickness – Lower Site:

Evaluation of water-level data for wells at the Lower Site indicates that the proposed 20-foot buffer zone should be achieved or exceeded over at least the western three-quarters of the Lower Site following excavation to the design depth, which ranges from approximately 630 to 650 feet above msl (Figure 3.4-5). In the central portion of the site, where the asphalt and concrete facilities would be located, water-level measurements indicate that the buffer zone would be a minimum of 30 to 40 feet.

In the eastern portion of the Lower Site where the gravel washing, crushing, and sorting would occur, the base elevation of the proposed excavation ranges from 640 to 650 feet above msl. Seasonal high water level elevations in the two wells in this area (GR98-1 and GR99-1) have been measured between 621 to 632 feet above msl (Figure 3.4-7). Higher groundwater levels would be expected beneath the easternmost portion of the excavation. In this area, the 20-foot buffer zone would not be maintained throughout the year under average rainfall and aquifer recharge conditions. In addition, the potential exists that the water table could be encountered during excavation if the excavation occurred during the period of high seasonal groundwater levels. The proposed groundwater seepage interception trench would maintain a minimum 5-foot buffer zone beneath the easternmost portion of the Lower Site during ongoing site operations (Figure 3.4-8).

Assessment of Buffer Zone Thickness – Upper Site:

At the Upper Site, there are no data indicating that a regional aquifer is present within the upper 200 feet of the deposits beneath Grouse Ridge. Alternative 2 proposes to remove sand and gravel to an elevation of 1,535 feet above msl, which corresponds to removal of about 100 feet of gravel, or less (Figure 3.4-5). Therefore, the proposed 20-foot buffer zone between the base of the excavation and the regional aquifer, which may underlie the ridge, would be maintained.

Shallow perched aquifers exist beneath the Upper Site. Excavation to an elevation of 1,535 feet above msl would remove the shallow and discontinuous perched water-bearing zones within the excavation footprint. These discontinuous perched zones would be excavated, and the water would drain into the excavation, and infiltrate and migrate downward to the underlying perched zones that appear to be more laterally continuous (Figure 3.4-13). Given the apparent limited extent of these zones and the lack of evidence that they contribute water directly to the springs on the flanks of the ridge, impacts associated with their removal are expected to be minimal.

The more laterally continuous water-bearing zones associated with the shallow and deep perching layers would not be breached; however, groundwater within the shallow perching zone locally rises above proposed excavation base. Specifically, the water level in well GR95-2 (Figure 3.4-11) has risen above the proposed base elevation for the Upper Site for a short period of time during 4 of the last 5 years. Based on these measured water levels, there would be no buffer zone with the perched aquifers on a seasonal basis in certain areas of the excavation (Figure 3.4-13). However, given that the water levels in only 1 of the 11 existing wells on the Upper Site was within 15 feet of the proposed excavation base during the winter and spring of 2000, the extent of the water table interception is expected to be limited and only likely to occur where the shallow perching layer is present.

Fuel Spill Migration through the Buffer Zone:

Numeric modeling was performed to simulate an accidental release of petroleum hydrocarbons to the pit ground surface (Appendix D) using the U.S. EPA Hydrocarbon Spill Screening Model (HSSM) (EPA, 1997). The model was used to assess how rapidly a surface petroleum spill would migrate through the vadose zone. The developed model is based on the scenario that an equipment fuel tank develops a leak and the leak goes undetected for one day. In addition, the partitioning of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) into pore water was evaluated to assess potential impacts due to dissolved phase constituent

movement. Naphthalene was selected for the evaluation because it has the highest solubility of PAH constituents in diesel fuel.

The model inputs were calculated from laboratory and field measurements based on samples collected from well 99-1, which was installed by Dames & Moore in May 1999 on the Lower Site, or based on reliable data in the literature. The inputs were selected to provide a conservative estimate of diesel fuel migration by using the soil exhibiting the highest vertical permeability. Results of the model run indicate that the diesel fuel reaches a depth of approximately 1.5 feet (0.43 meter) bgs 30 days from the spill (Figure 3.4-16). The results indicate that diesel fuel migration due to a spill would be relatively slow through the sands and gravels beneath the site, but could reach the water table if a sufficient buffer zone were not maintained and the spill was not cleaned up. The boring log for well 99-1 (Figure 3.4-6) indicates that at the proposed base of the excavation there is a significant amount of silt. The increased silt in this area would further decrease the rate of diesel fuel migration.

The concentration of naphthalene in the soil pore water calculated by the model was 0.27 mg/L after 30 days. The naphthalene concentration was slightly below the Model Toxics Control Act Method B groundwater cleanup level (0.32 mg/L); however, the dissolved concentration of other PAHs may exceed MTCA cleanup levels. PAHs generally have low solubility in water, tend to adsorb to soil, and are not major constituents of diesel fuel. The presence of naphthalene in the soil pore water indicates that within a relatively short period of time dissolved phase hydrocarbons have the potential to impact water in the vadose zone following a spill of diesel fuel. Under this spill scenario, diesel fuel migration would be relatively slow and dissolved constituents, such as naphthalene, would migrate more quickly. Impacts on groundwater quality should be mitigated by implementation of the Spill Prevention and Emergency Response Plan in areas where an adequate buffer zone is maintained. In areas where the buffer zone is limited in thickness or absent, impacts on groundwater quality could occur; However, given the limited potential for a significant release of contaminants and the substantial buffer zone beneath most of the site, the potential for significant impacts on groundwater quality is considered low.

To view this figure, click on the link below.

[Figure 3.4-16 Diesel Fuel Migration through the Buffer Zone](#)

Groundwater Quality

Groundwater quality at the Lower and Upper Sites has the potential to be affected by two types of events. First, surface water discharge to groundwater would occur via infiltration through the pit floor or through the stormwater infiltration ponds. Secondly, the potential exists for releases of petroleum products and other chemicals stored on site to migrate through the soil down to the water table.

Surface water at the site can infiltrate through permeable surfaces not covered by paving or buildings. This surface water results from precipitation on the site, road-watering activities, and truck and gravel washing. The primary impact on this water would be turbidity from fine-grained (typically clay to silt-sized) particles. Turbidity is reduced or removed from water through gravitational settling and interstitial filtration through sediments. In general, turbidity within groundwater has not been found to be a significant impact where gravel mining does not intercept the groundwater table (Thurston County, 1995). At the Lower Site, the intent of the Proposal is to maintain an adequate buffer zone; therefore, in portions of the Upper Site, where the buffer zone above perched aquifers may be absent seasonally, turbidity could locally impact groundwater quality when the groundwater table is above the floor of the mine. However, filtration of turbid water by the sandy and silty zones beneath the Upper Site is expected to be sufficient to remove turbidity before groundwater is discharged to springs, streams or wells.

In the event of a spill at the ground surface of the pit floor, such as a petroleum release from a vehicle or storage tank, spilled liquid could infiltrate into the ground surface and affect local groundwater quality if not rapidly detected and cleaned up. As part of the onsite Spill Prevention and Emergency Response Plan, procedures for the prevention, containment, control, and cleanup of spills or unplanned discharges of oil and petroleum products and other materials would be provided. Prevention of groundwater impacts would be dependent upon rapid observation and response to any spill in order to initiate cleanup without compromising the established buffer zone. At the Lower Site, a minimum 5-foot buffer zone would be maintained. At the Upper Site, the buffer zone would be less than five feet in some isolated areas on a seasonal basis. Given the slow rate of petroleum hydrocarbon movement through the soil and provided that the spill is quickly identified and cleaned up, groundwater quality impacts should be avoided at the Lower Site and would only be a concern at the Upper Site on a localized and seasonal basis.

In the unlikely event of a significant chemical spill in areas where the buffer zone does not exist on a seasonal basis at the Upper Site, then groundwater quality could be impacted. The impact would be on a shallow perched aquifer that is not used as a domestic water supply. The shallow perched aquifer is about 600 feet above the screened interval in the nearest domestic wells and more than 2,000 feet away horizontally. Overall, the potential for significant groundwater quality impacts beneath the Upper Site is considered low.

Aquifer Recharge

Surface conditions at the Lower and Upper Sites would be modified as part of this alternative, and this has the potential to impact groundwater recharge. Precipitation from paved areas and other areas where runoff occurs would be routed to stormwater infiltration ponds and vegetation would be removed, at least temporarily, from disturbed areas. The combined effect of these changes to the site would be to increase runoff, focus recharge into certain areas, and decrease evapotranspiration. Overall this would increase

aquifer recharge on both the Lower and Upper Sites. At the Lower Site, the increase in recharge would be reduced by the construction of fresh water pond that would collect precipitation and surface water runoff. The construction of the settling ponds on the Upper Site would also reduce aquifer recharge.

The actual quantity of additional recharge that would be attributed to the gravel operation is dependent on the rate at which the Lower and Upper Sites would be developed and reclaimed. Recharge would increase as vegetation and topsoil are removed and would then decrease as reclamation and revegetation occurs.

Lower Site:

Vegetation and topsoil would be stripped from approximately 40 acres of the Lower Site surrounding the processing area. This would increase infiltration rates and aquifer recharge by exposing permeable sands and gravels and would decrease evapotranspiration by removing vegetation. Although recharge in this portion of the disturbed area would increase, the increase is expected to be modest (less than 0.1 cfs) given that : (1) an estimated 69% or more of the precipitation (about 0.25 cfs) already recharges the aquifer in the area that would be disturbed by the gravel operation; (2) approximately half of the 40-acre area that would be disturbed has been previously used as a gravel mine, which has already enhanced recharge; (3) an estimated 35% or more of the disturbed portion of the Lower Site would be revegetated during the early phases of the gravel operation decreasing the area over which enhanced recharge would occur to about 25 acres, which corresponds to the processing area.

The fresh water pond (a lined reservoir) would provide storage to reduce the instantaneous rate at which groundwater pumping would be required to meet peak water use requirements. The freshwater pond on the Lower Site would intercept precipitation and would be designed to collect surface water runoff. The pond would cover an area of approximately 3.8 acres. The decrease in aquifer recharge attributable to the interception of precipitation (assuming 69% of the precipitation recharges the aquifer) would be about 770,000 ft³ per year or 0.02 cfs. As discussed in Section 3.4.1.3, the quantity of water that is estimated to annually infiltrate in the vicinity of the fresh water pond due to run-on from the drainage adjacent to the east is 1,800,000 ft³ or 0.06 cfs. It is assumed that this water would be collected by the pond and would not recharge the aquifer. Therefore, the estimated average annual decrease in aquifer recharge due to construction of the fresh water pond would be about 2,600,000 ft³. On an annualized basis, this is equivalent to a decrease in aquifer recharge of about 0.08 cfs.

Various engineering controls would be provided to control water storage and surface water elevations in the freshwater storage pond including emergency spillways, routing water to the infiltration pond at the Lower Site. Although the pond design would include a spillway, the operation of the pond is expected to minimize the potential for overflow. In the event that the pond were to overflow, some of this water would recharge the aquifer. Water stored in the pond would not be treated, there would be no impacts of groundwater quality due to overflow from the pond.

When considering the impacts of the pond and the limited potential for increased recharge in the processing area, the overall change in aquifer recharge at the Lower Site is expected to be negligible.

Surface water runoff at the Lower Site would be routed to a stormwater infiltration pond in the western portion of the excavation, and infiltration would be focused in this area. Depending on the amount of runoff, this could result in the local mounding of groundwater around the infiltration pond. Given the

apparent high permeability of the sand and gravel deposits beneath the pond, the mounding is expected to be small.

In areas where the excavation reduces the ground surface elevation, the vertical distance traveled by infiltrating water before it encounters the water table would decrease. Recharge in these areas would reach the water table more rapidly; however, a comparison of monthly precipitation records and hydrographs for monitoring wells (Figure 3.4-7) indicates that recharge is already relatively rapid and this change is considered to have minimal impact with respect to recharge at the Lower Site.

Upper Site:

The Upper Site recharge is expected to increase due to exposure of permeable sand and gravel and removal of vegetation. If a perched water table seasonally intercepts the excavation, this could provide additional opportunity for evaporation, but this would likely occur over a limited area during winter or early spring when evaporation rates are low. In addition, as the depth of the mine increases, the travel time for water infiltrating from the surface to the perched aquifers would decrease.

The Upper Site is proposed to be mined in 50-acre increments, with reclamation and revegetation occurring after operational area needs are met. As part of the gravel operation, precipitation would be intercepted in settling ponds for use in facility processes, which would affect aquifer recharge. The impact on groundwater recharge would be proportional to the area of the pond. This decrease in recharge would be offset, at least in part, by increases in recharge described above.

Overall, the increased rate of recharge is expected to be modest for the following reasons: (1) an estimated 69% or more of precipitation (about 1.7 cfs) already recharges the perched aquifer in the area that would be disturbed by the gravel operation; (2) the Upper Site would be developed in phases and would be revegetated as the gravel operation expands across the site and, therefore, only a fraction of the Upper Site would provide enhanced recharge at any time during the lifetime of the project; (3) most of the area was recently disturbed by logging, which enhances recharge by decreasing interception and uptake of water by vegetation; and (4) precipitation would be intercepted by the settling ponds, thus decreasing potential recharge. This increased recharge may locally increase water levels in the perched aquifer zones due to the limited nature of this aquifer system and the relatively low permeability of the silty material below the base of the excavation.

During site operations, stormwater runoff is expected to infiltrate readily through the exposed sand and gravel deposits which should minimize the redistribution of water recharging the perched aquifers. Runoff could occur in areas where silty layers are encountered. This runoff could result in recharge occurring in new or different areas.

The use of fine-grained soils to reclaim the Upper Site will affect stormwater runoff patterns. The Draft Reclamation Plan (Dunton, 2000) indicates that all stormwater would be captured and routed to ponds (see Chapter 6 of this DEIS). The ponds would be designed to store and infiltrate the stormwater. The use of these ponds has the potential to redistribute the groundwater recharge to the perched aquifers. The recharged groundwater may locally mound in areas beneath these infiltration ponds. Depending on the number and location of ponds, this could impact the flow rate of springs and streams around the perimeter of the ridge. The quantity of water anticipated to be collected by the ponds, the number of ponds, and their

locations are not identified in the Draft Reclamation Plan. Overall the impacts to the springs are expected to be low provided that: (1) the ponds and other drainage features constructed as part of reclamation minimize the long-term ponding of water over large areas at the base of the excavation; and (2) the number and location of ponds are designed with the intent of distributing recharge across the base of the excavation, in a manner similar to existing conditions, rather than focusing it in a few locations.

Water Supply Wells

More than 30 domestic and municipal water supply wells have been identified within a 1-mile radius of the site. Wells most susceptible to water quality impacts are those located potentially downgradient of the Lower Site, because the Lower Site is located directly above a regional aquifer. Wells screened in the regional aquifer and located downgradient include Sallal Water District Well No. 3, an industrial well, and several domestic wells. These wells are more than 2,000 feet downgradient of the eastern portion of the excavation, which is the area considered most susceptible to groundwater impacts.

Given the activities in the eastern portion of the Lower Site, the most likely contaminant would be petroleum hydrocarbons (such as diesel fuel and lubricants) and the quantity of the contaminants released is not expected to exceed 55 gallons (the contents of an entire drum). Larger releases of petroleum hydrocarbons are considered unlikely because secondary containment will be provided in the storage areas (Table 2-1). These types of releases would impact soils and could impact groundwater locally beneath the site and then migrate farther downgradient. The northern portion of the Lower Site is within the wellhead protection zone for Sallal Well No. 3. Based on groundwater modeling results in the Sallal Water District's Wellhead Protection Plan (Compass Geographics, Inc., 1998), the eastern portion of the excavation appears to be just outside the southern edge of the capture zone for the well. However, the wellhead protection area is only an approximation and it is possible that the well could draw water from beneath the processing area. The well proposed by Cadman, Inc. northwest of the excavation at the Lower Site would provide additional data regarding groundwater flow in the vicinity of the Sallal Well No. 3 and would also be used to monitor groundwater quality. Potential travel times for groundwater from this portion of the site to the Sallal Well would be about 1 to 2 years based on the modeling results (Compass Geographics, Inc., 1998). The travel time to wells farther downgradient is expected to be greater. As a result of natural attenuation, contaminants would move more slowly on average than the groundwater, and their concentrations would decrease in a downgradient direction. Given the limited potential for a significant release of contaminants, and the substantial buffer zone beneath most of the site, the potential for offsite impacts on groundwater quality is considered low.

Groundwater monitoring is proposed by Cadman, Inc. to assess groundwater flow directions and detect potential impacts on groundwater quality. With properly selected well locations, a program of regular groundwater monitoring would detect any significant impacts before they migrate off site or enter the designated wellhead protection area.

Water Supply

The mining operations have been estimated by Cadman, Inc. to require approximately 2,600,000 gallons of water per day. Most of this water would be recycled on site and reused. It is estimated that consumptive water usage would be approximately 150,000 gallons per day or 6% of the total daily water usage. The

gravel operation is expected to operate 250 days per year and would consume an estimated 37,500,000 gallons (approximately 5,000,000 cubic feet) of water annually through evaporations. This corresponds to a continuous consumptive water usage of about 70 gallons per minute or 0.16 cfs which would be increased slightly by evaporation from the freshwater pond.

The proposed sources of the water to be used by the gravel mining operation are groundwater from a well on the Lower Site and surface water collected in the freshwater pond. Prior to use of the water, Ecology approval would be required to obtain the required groundwater and surface water rights.

Due to evaporation from the freshwater pond, interception of surface water runoff is expected to provide less than half the required water for the project. Therefore, groundwater would be the primary source of water. The extraction of groundwater has the potential to decrease water levels in the aquifers in the site vicinity. The average annual pumping rate for the well at the Lower Site is estimated to be 70 gpm or less. At this rate, there is a potential for drawdown of the aquifer that could interfere with other wells. If the water supply well was screened in a different aquifer than the wells in the surrounding area, this potential interference could be minimized.

The rate of enhanced aquifer recharge at the Lower Site is expected to be negligible due to the construction of the freshwater pond. The average groundwater withdrawal for the project is estimated to be up to 0.16 cfs. Therefore, there would be a net decrease in the amount of groundwater beneath the Lower Site. On a regional basis, this net decrease in quantity of water in the aquifer system would be offset by enhanced recharge on the Upper Site.

Under existing conditions, the total average rate of aquifer recharge through the portions of the Upper Site that would be disturbed is estimated to be 1.7 cfs. The consumptive water requirements for the project is estimated by Cadman, Inc. to be 0.16 cfs. Therefore, aquifer recharge on the Upper Site would have to increase, on average, by about 10% to offset potential usage of groundwater and surface water collected at the Lower Site.

Environmental Health

As part of site reclamation, GroCo, a biosolid compost product, may be used as a soil amendment if post-mining soil conditions warrant. Biosolids consist of municipal sewage sludge that is primarily organic, can be beneficially recycled, and meets the applicable requirements of the Biosolids Management Regulations Chapter 173-308 WAC. GroCo is a biosolids compost product that consists of approximately 1 part biosolids and 3 to 4 parts sawdust. Biosolids are considered to have soil conditioning value because they increase the organic matter content of the soil and act as a fertilizer because of the presence of nitrogen and phosphorous (Ecology, 1992). GroCo is regularly tested to meet all applicable requirements of the Biosolids Management Regulations (WAC 173-308). This includes testing for pathogens, vector attraction, and metals. Typical metals concentrations in the biosolids used to make GroCo are summarized in Table 3.4-8. The actual metals concentrations in GroCo are less than those detected in the biosolids because GroCo is a combination of biosolids and sawdust. GroCo contains metals concentrations below the pollutant concentration limits outlined in the regulation and is considered an “exceptional quality biosolid” or Class A biosolid by Ecology.

TABLE 3.4-8
RANGE OF DETECTED METALS CONCENTRATIONS IN BIOSOLIDS USED TO MAKE
GROCO IN 1998

	Minimum (mg/kg)	Maximum (mg/kg)	Pollutant Concentration Limit ¹ (mg/kg)
Arsenic	1.2	27	41
Cadmium	<1.2	8.8	39
Copper	370	1,200	1,500
Lead	<11	174	300
Mercury	0.3	6.3	17
Nickel	12	55.4	420
Selenium	2.4	10.1	100
Zinc	555	1,400	2,800

¹ WAC 173-308-160 (3) Table 3

mg/kg = milligram per kilogram

Metals concentrations in GroCo are approximately four times less than those detected in biosolids because GroCo is a mixture of 1 part biosolids and 3 parts sawdust. Data were provided by GroCo, Inc., of Seattle, Washington.

EPA has conducted environmental risk assessments concerning the application of biosolids, and the concentrations of contaminants allowed in these products are considered to pose relatively low risks (EPA, 1995). From an environmental standpoint, the primary impacts that could occur with the application of biosolids would be due to the transport of nitrogen in the biosolids into surface water or groundwater. Given that metals in a biosolids compost are contained within an organic matrix, the metals would not tend to dissolve into surface water and would be relatively immobile. According to Ecology (1992), when properly applied, the constituents in biosolids are either taken up by plants or bound in the soil matrix so that migration does not occur.

The application of biosolids is regulated by Ecology under WAC 173-308. These regulations include provisions to protect the waters of the state (WAC 173-308-190). The biosolids must be applied to the land in a manner approved by Ecology and not at greater than agronomic rates (uptake limits) unless otherwise specified by Ecology. Ecology has concluded that the improper application of biosolids may pose a threat to human health and/or the environment. Applying GroCo at greater than agronomic rates could result in water quality degradation by nitrates or other nutrients in the biosolids. Given that there are no permanent surface water bodies within the disturbed area of the Lower and Upper Sites and there is no significant surface water flow off site, the potential impact would be primarily to the groundwater beneath the Lower and Upper Sites. However, with proper application rates, impacts are expected to be low.

Alternative 2 – Lower Site Option

Impacts for the Lower Site Option would be the same as for Alternative 2.

Surface Water

Runoff Volume

The impact on runoff volume under the Lower Site Option would be slightly less than Alternative 2 because the disturbed area would be reduced on the Lower Site. Impacts are expected to be minimal.

Surface Water Quality

The onsite impacts on surface water quality under the Lower Site Option would be similar to Alternative 2. Impacts are expected to be minimal.

Floodplain

The Lower Site Option does not include mining within or near the floodplain. No impacts on the 100-year flood elevation are expected from implementation of the Lower Site Option.

South and Middle Forks of the Snoqualmie River

Aquifer recharge would decrease slightly under this alternative when compared to Alternative 2 due to the decrease in the disturbed area. The potential impact on flow rates in the South and Middle Forks of the Snoqualmie River due to this small change is considered negligible when compared to Alternative 2. Potential impacts on water quality are similar to Alternative 2.

Groundwater

Buffer Zone

Under this option, potential impacts due to the buffer zone are the same as Alternative 2 because the excavation extends to the same depth under both alternatives.

Groundwater Quality

Potential impacts on groundwater quality at the Lower Site would be the same as Alternative 2.

Aquifer Recharge

Under this option, aquifer recharge would decrease slightly when compared to Alternative 2 due to the decrease in the disturbed area on the Lower Site.

Water Supply Wells

Potential impacts on groundwater quality at the Lower Site would be the same as Alternative 2.

Water Supply

The Lower Site Option of Alternative 2 would require the same amount of water as Alternative 2. Due to the decrease in aquifer recharge, the impacts would increase slightly.

Environmental Health

Potential impacts due to the use of a biosolids compost product would be similar to Alternative 2 for the Lower Site because this option also requires reclamation.

ALTERNATIVE 3 – LOWER AND UPPER SITES (EXIT 34 AND EXIT 38)

Surface Water

Runoff Volume

The impact on runoff volume from Alternative 3 would be similar to Alternative 2 with site processing located on the Upper Site. Impacts are expected to be minimal.

Surface Water Quality

The onsite impacts on surface water quality would be similar to Alternative 2 with site processing on the Upper Site. This alternative includes improvement to SE Grouse Ridge Road. Drainage from SE Grouse Ridge Road would be drained off site to the downstream drainage system. Because this is an existing roadway, impacts on drainage resulting from the proposed road improvements are expected to be minimal.

Springs and Streams on Grouse Ridge

Alternative 3 includes a semi-permanent processing area on the Upper Site that provides another area where enhanced recharge would occur throughout the 25-year project period. This is expected to slightly increase recharge to the shallow perched aquifer in the eastern portion of the Upper Site when compared to Alternative 2. This increased recharge is expected to slightly increase discharge to springs and streams in this area.

Floodplain

Alternative 3 does not include mining within or near the floodplain. No impacts on the 100-year flood elevation are expected from implementation of Alternative 3.

South and Middle Forks of the Snoqualmie River

As a result of the small potential changes in groundwater recharge under this alternative, the potential impact on flow rates in the South and Middle Forks of the Snoqualmie River are considered negligible when compared to Alternative 2. Potential impacts on water quality are slightly higher under this alternative because springs and streams on Grouse Ridge are at slightly greater risk because of the increased activities on the Upper Site. However, the overall risk to water quality is still considered to be low.

Groundwater

Buffer Zone

Under this alternative, potential impacts due to the buffer zone are the same as Alternative 2 because the excavation extends to the same depth under both alternatives.

Groundwater Quality

Lower Site:

Potential impacts on groundwater quality at the Lower Site would be reduced under this alternative when compared to Alternative 2 because there would be no gravel processing activities at the Lower Site. By moving the gravel processing to the Upper Site and reducing the vehicular traffic and use of petroleum hydrocarbons at the Lower Site, the potential risk for impacts would be reduced.

Upper Site:

Under this alternative, the gravel processing would be moved to the Upper Site and truck traffic at the Upper Site would increase significantly. This increases the potential for accidental releases of petroleum hydrocarbons and other chemicals that would be used or stored on the Upper Site, increasing the potential that groundwater would be affected. The apparent absence of groundwater above the shallow perching layer in this area suggests that an adequate buffer zone would be maintained. Therefore, implementation of the Spill Prevention and Emergency Response Plan should adequately mitigate potential water quality impacts.

Aquifer Recharge

Alternative 3 includes a processing area on the Upper Site that provides another area where enhanced recharge would occur throughout the 25-year project period. This is expected to slightly increase recharge to the shallow perched aquifer in the eastern portion of the Upper Site when compared to Alternative 2.

Water Supply Wells

Lower Site:

Potential impacts on groundwater quality at the Lower Site would be reduced under this alternative when compared to Alternative 2 because there would be no gravel processing activities at the Lower Site. Therefore, the risk of potential impacts on groundwater quality at offsite water supply wells would be reduced under this alternative when compared to Alternative 2.

Upper Site:

Potential impacts on groundwater quality at the Upper Site would be increased under this alternative when compared to Alternative 2 because there would be gravel processing activities at the Upper Site which increases the potential for accidental releases of chemicals or petroleum hydrocarbons. Therefore, the risk of potential impacts on groundwater quality at offsite water supply wells downgradient of the Upper Site would increase under this alternative when compared to Alternative 2. However, the risk would still be considered low given the distance and topographic separation between the Upper Site and the nearest wells.

Water Supply

This alternative would require the same amount of water as Alternative 2. Therefore, the potential impacts are the same as Alternative 2.

Environmental Health

Potential impacts due to the use of a biosolids compost product would be the same as Alternative 2 because this alternative also requires reclamation of both the Lower and Upper Sites.

Alternative 3 – Lower Site Option

Impacts for the Lower Site Option would be the same as for Alternative 3.

Surface Water

Runoff Volume

The impact on runoff volume under the Lower Site Option would be slightly less than Alternative 3 because the disturbed area would be reduced on the Lower Site. Impacts are expected to be minimal.

Surface Water Quality

The onsite impacts on surface water quality under the Lower Site Option would be similar to Alternative 3. Impacts are expected to be minimal.

Floodplain

The Lower Site Option does not include mining within or near the floodplain. No impacts on the 100-year flood elevation are expected from implementation of the Lower Site Option.

South and Middle Forks of the Snoqualmie River

Aquifer recharge would decrease slightly under this alternative when compared to Alternative 3 due to the decrease in the disturbed area. The potential change to flow rates in the South and Middle Forks of the Snoqualmie River due to this small change is considered negligible when compared to Alternative 3. Potential impacts on water quality are similar to Alternative 3.

Groundwater

Buffer Zone

Under this alternative, potential impacts due to the buffer zone are the same as Alternative 3 because the excavation extends to the same depth under both alternatives.

Groundwater Quality

Potential impacts on groundwater quality at the Lower Site would be the same as Alternative 3.

Aquifer Recharge

Under this option, aquifer recharge would decrease slightly when compared to Alternative 3 due to the decrease in the disturbed area on the Lower Site.

Water Supply Wells

Potential impacts on groundwater quality at the Lower Site would be the same as Alternative 3.

Water Supply

This alternative would require the same amount of water as Alternative 3, but due to the decrease in aquifer recharge the impacts would increase slightly.

Environmental Health

Potential impacts due to the use of a biosolids compost product would be similar to Alternative 3 for the Lower Site because this option also requires reclamation.

ALTERNATIVE 4 – UPPER SITE ONLY (EXIT 38)

Surface Water

Runoff Volume

The impact on surface water drainage at the Upper Site would be similar to Alternatives 2 and 3. There would be no impacts at the Lower Site because it would not be mined as part of this alternative.

Surface Water Quality

The impact on surface water drainage at the Upper Site would be similar to Alternative 3. There would be no impacts at the Lower Site because it would not be mined as part of this alternative.

Springs and Streams on Grouse Ridge

Impacts on groundwater recharge at the Upper Site would be similar to Alternative 3. Potential impacts on water quality are considered slightly increased under this alternative because springs and streams on Grouse Ridge are at slightly greater risk due to the increased activities on the Upper Site when compared to Alternative 3. This increased risk would be on the eastern portion of the Upper Site where additional chemical storage and usage would occur. Overall, the potential for impacts is considered low if appropriate controls, policies, and procedures are implemented during site operations.

Floodplain

Alternative 4 does not include mining within or near the floodplain. No impacts on the 100-year flood elevation are expected from Alternative 4.

South and Middle Forks of the Snoqualmie River

Groundwater recharge at the Lower Site would not be enhanced under this alternative because the site would remain undeveloped. Therefore, potential impacts on the rivers due to decreased groundwater contribution could increase slightly because the water supply for the project would be groundwater from the Lower Site. Impacts on groundwater recharge at the Upper Site would be similar to Alternative 3. Overall,

the potential impact on flow rates in the South and Middle Forks of the Snoqualmie River are considered negligible when compared to Alternative 3. Potential impacts on water quality are considered slightly increased under this alternative because springs and streams on Grouse Ridge are at slightly greater risk due to the increased activities on the Upper Site when compared to Alternative 3.

Groundwater

Buffer Zone

Under this alternative, the impacts due to the buffer zone are the same as Alternatives 2 and 3 for the Upper Site because the excavation would extend to the same depth under this alternative. However, there would be no mining at the Lower Site and therefore there would be no impacts related to the buffer zone at the Lower Site.

Groundwater Quality

Lower Site:

Potential impacts on groundwater quality at the Lower Site would be the same as for the No Action Alternative (Alternative 1) because the Lower Site would not be mined.

Upper Site:

Under this alternative, vehicle fueling and maintenance would be performed on the Upper Site, in addition to those activities included as part of Alternative 3. This increases the potential for accidental releases of petroleum hydrocarbons and other chemicals that would be used or stored on the Upper Site. Due to this increased activity, there is a greater potential that groundwater would be impacted when compared to Alternative 3. However, the overall impacts to water quality are still considered low.

Aquifer Recharge

There would be no impact on groundwater recharge at the Lower Site because it would not be mined. Potential impacts on aquifer recharge at the Upper Site under this alternative are the same as for Alternative 3.

Water Supply Wells

Lower Site:

The potential for direct impacts on groundwater quality at the Lower Site would be eliminated under this alternative because the Lower Site would not be developed and potential impacts on Upper Site groundwater are not likely to migrate to the Lower Site. Therefore, the risk of potential impacts on groundwater quality at offsite water supply wells near the Lower Site would be almost non-existent under this alternative when compared to Alternatives 2 and 3.

Upper Site:

The potential for groundwater quality to be affected at the Upper Site would be increased under this alternative when compared to Alternatives 2 and 3 because gravel processing and vehicle fueling and maintenance activities at the Upper Site increases the potential for accidental releases of chemicals or petroleum hydrocarbons. Therefore, the risk of potential impacts on groundwater quality at offsite water supply wells downgradient of the Upper Site would be increased under this alternative when compared to Alternatives 2 and 3. However, the risk would still be considered low given the distance and topographic separation between the Upper Site and the nearest wells.

Water Supply

This alternative would require approximately 12% less water than Alternatives 2 and 3 because water for the concrete batch facility would not be required. The water would be pumped from beneath the Lower Site, but would not be offset by enhanced recharge at the Lower Site because the Lower Site would not be mined. Therefore, there would be a greater impact on the quantity of water flowing beneath the Lower Site. In the context of the regional aquifer system, this impact is considered low.

Environmental Health

Potential impacts due to the use of biosolids would be limited to the Upper Site because the Lower Site would not be mined.

3.4.3 Cumulative Impacts

3.4.3.1 Alternative 1 – No Action

No cumulative impacts are associated with this alternative.

3.4.3.2 Alternative 2 – Proposal

The cumulative surface drainage impacts on the surrounding drainage basin resulting from the Proposal are considered minimal. The Proposal would contain nearly all surface runoff, and discharges from the site would generally be to groundwater. Although the project would intercept some stormwater, and thereby prevent it from reaching groundwater, the volume removed is considered minimal and the net effect to groundwater flow rates should be negligible.

Surface water quality would be monitored over the life of the project to ensure that discharge to groundwater is not affected. Because the threat would be identified at the surface, any contamination would be identified before it could affect the Middle or South Forks of the Snoqualmie River.

Although there are no indications that a significant impact on the drainage basin would result from the Proposal, continual monitoring of drainage issues would prevent any unidentified adverse impacts from occurring.

Groundwater withdrawals in the Snoqualmie Valley can be expected to increase as the development of the aquifers continues. The extraction of groundwater for the Proposal would contribute to this overall increase

in groundwater usage. This would decrease the quantity of groundwater available for other development in the vicinity of the Lower Site. The use of groundwater at the Lower Site would be offset in part by enhanced recharge at the Upper Site; however, this recharge in a different location than where the water would be extracted. Although this water, like the groundwater beneath the Lower Site, would be expected to ultimately discharge into the Middle and/or South Fork of the Snoqualmie River, the time required for the water to reach the rivers would likely be change. The timing of this discharge may be important because groundwater provides baseflow to the streams and rivers in the area during the late summer and fall. The cumulative impact of groundwater withdrawal associated with the Proposal and other withdrawals in the basin, could reduce baseflows.

ALTERNATIVE 2 – LOWER SITE OPTION

The cumulative impacts for the Lower Site Option for Alternative 2 would be the same as for Alternative 2.

3.4.3.3 Alternative 3 – Lower and Upper Sites (Exit 34 and Exit 38)

Under Alternative 3, the overall disturbed area would be less, and the natural drainage on the west face of Grouse Ridge would not be affected. The remaining cumulative impacts would be similar to Alternative 2.

ALTERNATIVE 3 – LOWER SITE OPTION

The cumulative impacts for the Lower Site Option for Alternative 3 would be the same as for Alternative 3.

3.4.3.4 Alternative 4 – Upper Site Only (Exit 38)

Under Alternative 4, the overall disturbed area would be less. The existing drainage at the Lower Site and the natural drainage on the west face of Grouse Ridge would not be affected. The remaining cumulative impacts would be similar to Alternative 3.

3.4.4 Mitigation Measures

3.4.4.1 Alternative 1 – No Action

No impacts requiring mitigation were identified for this alternative.

3.4.4.2 Alternative 2 – Proposal

SURFACE WATER

The overall goal of surface water protection for this site is to minimize erosion, control sediment transport and deposition, and prevent impacts from chemicals and products used during site operations. The following actions are proposed to mitigate potential impacts:

- Temporary erosion and sediment controls should be inspected on a daily basis and continually adjusted to match current site conditions and operations.
- Permanent erosion and sediment controls should be inspected and maintained on a routine, scheduled basis in accordance with established operating policies and procedures.

- New employee training and periodic updates should emphasize the importance of surface water protection, operating policies and procedures, and proper chemical and product handling, storage, and disposal.
- Permanent drainage features and controls should be constructed as each phase of development occurs and maintained throughout the period of operation.
- Completed phases of gravel extraction and grading should be restored and revegetated in a timely manner.
- Long-term monitoring of surface water quality should be implemented during construction, operation, and post-closure.
- Discharge control structures, including an emergency spillway and diversion structures should be provided for the passive freshwater storage pond on the Lower Site.

GROUNDWATER

Aquifer Recharge

The construction of drainage features, the use of infiltration ponds, and reclamation have the potential to change the distribution of recharge across the Upper Site. If this recharge pattern is disturbed, it may impact the flow of water in upland streams and springs on the flanks of the ridge. The overall goal should be to manage stormwater runoff during site development and reclamation to maintain the natural pattern of recharge. The following actions are proposed to mitigate potential impacts:

- Infiltration ponds should be located over areas where the shallow and/or deep perching layers are present and in close proximity to the springs so that infiltrating water has the potential to discharge to the springs.
- Infiltration ponds should be located as close as possible to the area where the stormwater is collected. It is recommended that at a minimum, each 50-acre area that is mined should have its own infiltration pond.
- To prevent surface water runoff from flowing out of each 50-acre area, berms should be maintained around the perimeter of each area.

Groundwater Quality

The following action is proposed to mitigate potential groundwater quality impacts:

- To maintain groundwater quality and minimize potential introduction of turbid water into groundwater beneath the Lower and Upper Sites, stormwater infiltration ponds should be designed in accordance with the King County SWDM to filter out suspended silt and clay.

Buffer Zone

Lower Site

To maintain an adequate buffer zone at the Lower Site the following mitigation measures are proposed:

- Excavation in the easternmost portion of the Lower Site should be limited to periods when it can be reasonably demonstrated based on the water levels in the existing wells that a buffer zone of at least 10 feet is present.
- Regular inspections and maintenance should be performed to ensure that the groundwater seepage interception trench is functioning properly.
- A shallow piezometer should be installed adjacent to the trench and monitored periodically during the winter and early spring to confirm that the groundwater interception trench is maintaining a minimum 5-foot buffer zone.
- In the event that the trench does not maintain an adequate buffer zone, active dewatering (i.e., pumping) should be required.

Upper Site

To maintain a buffer zone at the Upper Site and mitigate potential impacts to water quality, the following actions are proposed:

- Avoid excavation in areas where groundwater associated with the shallow perching layer is within 5 feet of the base of the excavation. It is expected that this would seasonally restrict excavation in a relatively small portion of the Upper Site.
- Seasonally cease excavation in areas where perched groundwater is encountered below an elevation of 1540 feet above mean sea level. Excavation could continue in these areas provided the water level declines sufficiently to maintain a 5-foot buffer zone.

Groundwater Monitoring

Lower Site

The following groundwater monitoring activities are proposed to confirm that the mitigation measures designed to protect groundwater quality are effective and to confirm assumptions regarding hydrogeologic conditions beneath the Lower Site:

- Water level data from the existing onsite wells, the well proposed in the area northwest of the processing area and Sallal Well No. 3 should be collected to confirm the direction of groundwater flow beneath the western portion of the Lower Site.
- Based on the groundwater flow direction confirmed through the measurements recommended above, an additional monitoring well should be installed downgradient of the processing area in the event that the well proposed in the northwest portion of the site is not located downgradient.
- A groundwater quality monitoring program should be implemented to assess potential impacts to groundwater quality. The program should include baseline sampling and analysis, prior to construction, to provide data for comparison with future monitoring results. Following construction, the frequency of monitoring should consider the proximity of the nearest receptors (such as downgradient wells), the estimated groundwater velocity, and the anticipated response time for any corrective action that may be required in the event that

groundwater quality is affected. Groundwater samples should be analyzed for chemicals (such as coagulants and flocculents) and petroleum products that would be used and stored on the site and are considered hazardous substances.

Upper Site

To provide the data needed to maintain a buffer zone at the Upper Site, the following actions are proposed:

- Collect additional baseline water level data during the winter and spring using the existing monitoring wells on the Upper Site to further assess the potential areas where the groundwater perched on the shallow perching layer may intercept the base of the planned excavation.
- Maintain the wells installed above the shallow perching layer during the excavation and monitor the water levels in these wells.

If Cadman, Inc. is interested in excavating deeper than an elevation of 1,535 feet above msl, further evaluation of the hydrogeologic information collected during the recent investigations should be required. It is expected that excavating deeper could have a significant impact on the springs and upper reaches of the streams that originate on Grouse Ridge if the silty layers that appear to perch groundwater below an elevation of 1,535 feet above msl are breached. This option to excavate beyond an elevation of 1535, if selected by Cadman, Inc., would require a Supplemental EIS, including appropriate mitigation for groundwater and surface water impacts that could arise from excavating to a greater depth. This assessment could be performed in conjunction with King County's 5-year project review.

Spring and Surface Water Monitoring

To provide baseline data and assess potential impacts to springs and surface water on the Upper Site, the following actions are proposed:

- Collect additional data regarding flow rates in the springs and streams around the perimeter of Grouse Ridge before excavation begins on the Upper Site to provide a baseline against which post excavation stream gauging data can be compared.
- Baseline water quality data from a limited number of springs should be collected to document existing conditions. The testing should include any hazardous substances that will be used on the Upper Site. The turbidity of the surface water should also be measured.
- Once the gravel operation is active on the Upper Site, regular observations and measurements of stream flow should be performed to confirm that impacts are not significant. Water quality testing should not be necessary unless the impacts to the water are visually evident (for example, the water appears turbid or a hydrocarbon sheen is evident).

WATER SUPPLY

The following action is proposed to mitigate the potential impacts associated with the use of groundwater at the Lower Site:

- The water supply well should be located in an area of the property and screened at a depth where it can be shown that there would be no interference with the water levels in nearby water supply wells due to the pumping of groundwater at the Lower Site.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

The following actions are proposed to mitigate the potential impacts associated with the use of GroCo and to confirm that the mitigation measures are effective in protecting groundwater quality:

- A site-specific agronomic application rate for GroCo should be developed if this soil amendment is used during site reclamation.
- A land application plan for the use of GroCo should be developed for the Lower and Upper Sites prior to reclamation if GroCo would be applied in greater than agronomic rates. The plan should be prepared in accordance with the requirements of WAC 173-308-310(6)(iii) because there is a public benefit to ensuring that groundwater resources in the vicinity are not impacted.
- If GroCo or other fertilizers are used for reclamation, groundwater beneath the Lower and Upper Sites should be sampled and analyzed for nitrates to detect potential impacts. If impacts are detected, corrective action should be taken to restore groundwater quality.

ALTERNATIVE 2 – LOWER SITE OPTION

Mitigation measures for the Lower Site Option for Alternative 2 would be the same as for Alternative 2.

3.4.4.3 Alternative 3 – Lower and Upper Sites (Exit 34 and Exit 38)

SURFACE WATER, WATER SUPPLY, AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

The mitigation measures for surface water, water supply, and environmental health described under Alternative 2 would also apply to Alternative 3.

GROUNDWATER

The mitigation measures for groundwater described under Alternative 2 would also apply to Alternative 3. In addition, the following mitigation measures are proposed:

- A more detailed groundwater investigation should be performed on the portion of the Upper Site that would be used for sand and gravel processing, because this is a permanent facility and seasonal high groundwater cannot be easily avoided by working in other areas.
- A buffer zone of 10 feet above the seasonal high water table should be maintained in this area to account for potential water table fluctuation. If an interception trench were installed, the buffer zone could be decreased to 5 feet.

ALTERNATIVE 3 – LOWER SITE OPTION

Mitigation measures for the Lower Site Option for Alternative 3 would be the same as for Alternative 3.

3.4.4.4 Alternative 4 – Upper Site Only (Exit 38)

SURFACE WATER AND WATER SUPPLY

The mitigation measures for surface water and water supply described under Alternative 2 would also apply to Alternative 4.

GROUNDWATER

No mitigation would be required for the Lower Site under this alternative because it would not be mined. The mitigation measures for groundwater at the Upper Site described under Alternative 3 would also apply to Alternative 4.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

No mitigation measures would be required for the Lower Site under this alternative because it would not be mined. The mitigation measures for environmental health for the Upper Site described under Alternative 2 would also apply to Alternative 4.

3.4.5 Significant Unavoidable Adverse Impacts

The project is unlikely to have significant and unavoidable adverse impacts on water or environmental health if the proposed mitigation measures described above are applied.